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O B S E R V A T I O N S

O N T H E

P A S S A G E to I N D I A,

T H R O U G H

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W I T H

Occafional Remarks on the adjacent Countries, and alfo
Sketches of the different Routes :

By J A M E S C A P P E R, Esq;

Colonel in the Service of the Hon. Eaft India Company.

NIL MORTALIBUS ARDUUM EST.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED for W. FADEN, Geographer to the KING, *Charing Crofs*;
J. ROBSON, in *New Bond Street*; and R. SEWELL, in *Cornhill*.

M DCC LXXXIII.

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OBSERVATIONS

PASSAGE TO INDIA

THE



Occasional Remarks on the adjacent Countries and also

Remarks on the different Routes

JAMES CLAPP, Esq.

Commander of the Ship "The Fish Hawk"

With Illustrations and Maps

LONDON:

Printed for W. Taylor, Geographer to the KING, Great Court;
J. Johnson, in Pall Mall; and R. Baldwin, in Cornhill.

MDCCLXXXII

TO THE HONORABLE
THE COURT OF DIRECTORS
OF
THE EAST INDIA COMPANY:

THIS WORK IS INSCRIBED,

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT,

BY THEIR MOST OBEDIENT,

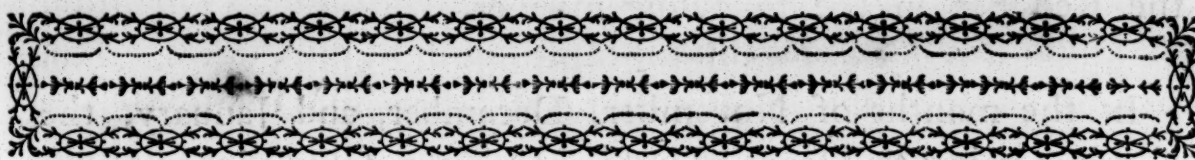
HUMBLE SERVANT,

JAMES CAPPER.

MARGARET STREET,
November 6th,
1783.

E R R A T A.

INTRODUCTION: *Page v. line 13, forbid, read forbidden.*—LETTER: *Page 29. line 18, cocoanut, read coconut.*—*Page 34, line 10, after Asia insert But.*—*Line 24, bitter read brackish.*—JOURNAL: *Page 57, line 27, Hegina, read Hegira.*—*Page 100, last line, quantity, read quantity.*—*Page 102, last line but one, supplied, read supplied.*—*Page 103, line 20, dele immediately.*—*Page 104, dele first the in line 12.*—*Dele first t in consoltation, in line 15.*—*Page 107, line 16, convoy read convey.*



INTRODUCTION.

THE following letter was written in India at the request of a person of rank, who once had thoughts of returning to Europe by the way of Suez : it was not at that time intended for publication, however since my return to England many of my friends having desired a copy of it ; to avoid the trouble of transcribing it myself, or the expence of having it transcribed by others, I have at last reluctantly consented to its going to the press.

THIS the first difficulty being got over, I shall now endeavour to make this publication as acceptable as I can ; by adding to it an account of the proper time, and most agreeable manner, of going from Europe to India by Suez : but first, as the Turks have at present forbid any Europeans to pass that way, it will be proper to explain the cause of this prohibition ; and to shew that their objections against travellers going through Egypt may be easily removed.

THIS route to India was once the most frequented of any, but after the discovery of the passage round the Cape of Good Hope,

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it was neglected by most European nations, and almost entirely abandoned to the Mahomedans, who carry on the trade of the Red Sea in the following manner.

IN the months of November, December, and January, the pilgrims going to Mecca assemble near Suez, some of them form a caravan and proceed from thence by land, but those who have merchandize, freight large ships from six to twelve hundred tons to carry them and their goods to Gedda, a sea-port within sixty miles of Mecca, and about two degrees from the Tropic. As different winds prevail on the different sides of the Tropic in the Red Sea, ships may come to Gedda from opposite points at the same season of the year; those which come from Suez at the above mentioned time, benefit by the N. W. wind, while those that come from India and Arabia Felix are assisted by the regular S. W. Monsoon. The pilgrims having fulfilled the duties of their religion, and settled their worldly concerns, contrive if they can, to embark at Gedda time enough to avail themselves of the * Khumseen wind, which blows southerly from the end of March to the middle of May, and conveys them in less than a month back again to Suez: the India vessels must also quit Gedda so as to be out of the straits of Babelmandel before the end of August. This meeting of the Mahomedans at Gedda has given rise to a sort of annual fair there, which, as all goods imported pay a regular duty of ten per cent. must yield a considerable revenue to the government.

THE government of Gedda properly speaking is vested in the Sherreef or high Priest of Mecca; but in order when necessary

* KHUMSEEN or Khumsoon, the Arabic term fifty; from this wind blowing during that number of days in the manner above described.

to obtain the protection and support of the Turks, he also allows the * Grand Signior to send a Bashaw there. The Shereeff appropriates the major part of the revenues to his own use, giving only a small share of them to the Bashaw; but sometimes he is obliged also to transmit a few purses to Constantinople to keep the Grand Signior and his ministers in good humour.

IN the year 1774 the Governor General of Bengal proposed to some merchants in Calcutta to send a ship to the Red Sea, loaded with a proper assortment of goods for the Turkish markets, and instead of landing them at Gedda, to proceed with them directly to Suez; by which means he expected to establish a new trade equally beneficial to us and to the Turks in general, and also to open a new channel for transmitting intelligence backwards and forwards, between India and Europe. It is not necessary in this place to consider the merits of the commercial part of this plan, suffice it to say, that the Sherreef of Mecca very soon took the alarm, and used all his influence both spiritual and temporal to put a stop to its continuance: in his negociation at the Porte in this business, he was also zealously assisted by a large body of Turkish merchants, who were apprehensive of suffering by the prices of India goods being lowered in their markets, which must have totally put an end to the old established trade of Bosphora and Aleppo. By such a weighty concurrence of interest a firmaun was obtained from the Grand Signior, which stripped of its official tautology, and oriental hyperbole, contains no more than what follows.

* THE Grand Signior affects to have imperial authority over the three Arabias, and the coast of Barbary, but which in fact is never allowed by the Princes of any of those countries, unless when it suits their convenience as in this instance.

“ HISTORIANS inform us, that the Christians, an enterprizing
 “ and artful race, have from the earliest times constantly made
 “ use of deceit and violence to effect their ambitious purposes.
 “ Under the disguise of merchants they formerly introduced
 “ themselves into Damascus and Jerusalem; in the same manner
 “ they have since obtained a footing in Hindostan, where the
 “ English have reduced the inhabitants to slavery; so now
 “ likewise encouraged by the Beys, the same people have lately
 “ attempted to insinuate themselves into Egypt, with a view
 “ no doubt as soon as they have made maps of the country,
 “ and taken plans of the fortifications, to attempt the conquest
 “ of it.

“ IN order to counteract these their dangerous designs, on
 “ first hearing of their proceedings, we enjoined their Am-
 “ bassador to write to his court desiring their vessels might
 “ not be allowed to frequent the port of Suez; which requisi-
 “ tion having been fully complied with, if any of their vessels
 “ presume hereafter to anchor there, the cargo shall be con-
 “ fiscated, and all persons on board be imprisoned, until our
 “ further pleasure be known.”

IF it were necessary, the Christians might very easily vindicate
 themselves from the aspersions contained in this firmaun, and
 with great truth and justice recriminate upon the Mahomedans.

It is universally known that the dogma of their religion, and
 the principles of their government, inculcate in them a spirit
 of conquest and oppression; insomuch that wherever their re-
 ligion and government are established, the first subject is only the
 first slave in the Empire, and consequently any one of them
 may be deprived either of his property or life without the
 least

least form of a trial: how ridiculous then does it appear to hear a Mahomedan Despot lament, that the inhabitants of any country should be reduced to slavery? But the Grand Signior's historians have misled him strangely concerning the proceedings of the Mahomedans and the English in Hindostan, or he would hardly have ventured to make a comparison between them.

BOTH parties are equally strangers in that country, the Mahomedans first appeared there with an avowed intention of making conquests; whereas the Christians in general, but the English in particular, never committed any act of violence in India, until they were compelled to take up arms in self-defence. After Surage ul Dowla had unjustly put a number of our countrymen to death in Calcutta, can we be blamed for resenting such cruelty and unmerited ill treatment? and having drawn the sword in a just cause, and punished the aggressor, would it have been prudent in us to have quietly laid down our arms again, and subjected ourselves to the oppressions of the new Nabob, who very early betrayed a treacherous and hostile disposition towards us? Surely not! It would have been folly in the extreme to have depended upon the good faith of those who were not to be restrained by the ties of honour and gratitude*.

THUS then it appears that avarice and ambition brought the Mahomedans into Hindostan; but the hope of honest gain acquired by a fair trade introduced Us there, and that if we

* MEER JAFFIER the Nabob of Bengal was no sooner placed on the throne of Surage ul Dowla, than he immediately began plotting against us, but his negotiations with the Dutch being discovered, their scheme of extirpating us was by the prudent and spirited exertions of Lord Clive entirely defeated. Vide Orme's History and Vansittart's Narrative.

afterwards

afterwards stepped out of that line, it was at first only on the admissible principle of self-preservation.* It must be acknowledged since that time we have, like others, been infected with the vice of ambition; still however no charge can be brought against us of having reduced the inhabitants to slavery; they have been slaves to the Moguls, but are not so to us. It is true the country has been more impoverished under our government, than it was under theirs, but that is, because we have brought away the specie to Europe whereas they required more money from the people, but then as they never quitted Hindostan that same money, in the regular course of things, returned into circulation within the bounds of the empire: other causes also have concurred to render our government more prejudicial to the country, although less oppressive to the people, but not to wander too far from the subject of the firmaun, the Grand Signior evidently declares in it the sentiments of others, and

* THE different conduct of the Christians and Mahomedans in India will appear in a more striking point of view from the relation of an anecdote of Oriental History, which accidentally came to the knowledge of the author.

“ SURAGE UL DOWLA was the grandson of the great Alyverdi Khan, who had
 “ a favourite wife, a woman of extraordinary abilities and great virtue. When Alyverdi
 “ was dying knowing the flighty and tyrannical disposition of his grandson, whom he in-
 “ tended for his successor, he advised him on all important occasions after his death to
 “ consult the Old Queen, whose discernment would enable her to foresee Dangers, imper-
 “ ceptible to an impetuous and inexperienced youth like him.

“ WHEN Surage ul Dowla instigated by avarice intended to attack Calcutta, he con-
 “ sulted this oracle, who advised him against it in the following prophetic words:

“ THE English are a peaceable and industrious people, like bees if properly encourag-
 “ ed and protected they will bring you honey, but beware of disturbing the Hive:
 “ you may perhaps destroy a few of them, but in the end believe me, they will sting
 “ you to Death.” A prediction which was soon afterwards verified. From this well-
 known fact it appears, that we were not even suspected of a disposition to enslave the na-
 tives of India, nor even to quarrel with the Mahomedan usurpers, until compelled to it
 in order to avoid being enslaved ourselves.

not

not his own; for did he think as unfavourably of us as he there expresses himself, he would not only exclude us from the port of Suez, but also compel us to leave every other part of his dominions; but on the contrary it is well-known, that he allows us to have factories at Constantinople, Smyrna, Aleppo, and many other places in Turkey, without shewing the least apprehension of our seizing on his cities, or enslaving his people. We may therefore reasonably consider the Sherreef of Mecca, as the principal author of this scurrilous libel, who hoped thereby to keep the trade of the Red Sea in its old channel.

WHEN our government thought proper to comply with the requisition of the Porte concerning the trade to Suez, it is much to be lamented, that our minister at Constantinople, was not instructed to stipulate for some delay in issuing the firmaun, so that a proper time might be allowed for sending a copy of it to India; for want of which precaution, some merchants going from Suez to Cairo, were plundered and murdered by a body of Arabs. Supposing even for a moment, what was not the case, that the merchants had been informed of the prohibition; still they were not punished in a regular manner, nor even according to the tenor of the firmaun, which decrees only a confiscation of their property, and an imprisonment of their persons: whereas these unfortunate men were some of them cut to pieces, and others left to perish of hunger and thirst on the Desert; a mode of punishment which plainly shews, that the massacre was made by a banditti, set on by a ruffian like themselves, and not by any government whatever. Here again we may also trace the hand of the Sherreef of Mecca, who, no doubt, expected by an act of uncommon violence and cruelty, to deter every other Christian from passing that way; and also at once to gratify his avarice and resentment, by seizing on such a valuable booty.

BUT

BUT the Grand Signior having issued this firmaun, forbidding our ships to come to Suez, and expressed himself in it, in such very strong terms: it may perhaps be deemed expedient to abandon the trade, rather than involve ourselves in a dispute with him; but surely no person will think, that we ought also to give up the right of sending packets that way, to which neither the Grand Signior, nor even the Sherreef of Mecca himself, can offer the smallest reasonable objection.

EVERY man acquainted with India must know, that it is of the highest importance to individuals, to the company, and to the nation at large, to have this channel of communication opened again. During the latter part of the late war after the firmaun was issued, the French regularly transmitted advices by Suez, to and from India, by which means they frequently anticipated us in intelligence, and thereby counteracted our operations. It is not necessary to particularize every instance of it, but it will doubtless be well remembered, that the news of the unfortunate defeat of Colonel Baillie came to England through France where it was known in February, time enough to enable them to send out reinforcements to Hyder Ally, before the best season for passing the Cape of Good Hope was elapsed; whilst we who were ignorant of that disaster until April, could not send out any ships before the return of the ensuing season, near six months afterwards.

SINCE then, nothing less than the existence of our settlements in India, may some time or other depend upon our possessing a right of passing unmolested through Egypt; and the prohibitory firmaun was only intended to prevent the trade of Gedda from being transferred to Suez, surely no time should be lost in demanding another firmaun explanatory of the first, and declaring that

that no persons dependent on, or connected with, the Turkish government, shall impede or molest any British subject in passing up the Red Sea, or through Egypt, provided they have nothing but papers, and such baggage as travellers may be supposed to have occasion for on such a journey. The Sherreef of Mecca may probably at first oppose our enjoying this privilege, in which also it is likely he will be secretly supported by the French*; but can it be thought prudent in us to submit to the controul of the one, or to be dupes of the secret machinations of the other, especially when consistently with justice, we can easily get the better of both.

AFTER shewing from what cause, the opposition to our having a free passage this way to India arose, and exposing the futility of the charges contained in the firmaun: I shall next consider what is the best time for setting out from England.

THE season for undertaking this journey commences early in April, and ends early in June; during which time a person accustomed to travel, will easily arrive at Alexandria from London in about a month, that is supposing he has previously determined what route to pursue to the Mediterranean; and also has caused a vessel to be prepared for him on his arrival at the place where he intends to embark. The northerly and westerly winds prevail in the Mediterranean in May, June and July; and therefore in these months, the pas-

* It is not intended to insinuate that the French ever did, or ever would co-operate with the Sherreef in employing assassins; but as our rivals in politics, it is very natural to suppose they will endeavour to prevail on the Grand Signior, not to revoke his present firmaun, which is not only a severe national libel upon us, but also highly incompatible with our interest.

sage from Marfeilles, Leghorn, or Venice to Alexandria, in a tolerable good failing vessel seldom exceeds eighteen days, and is often performed in ten or twelve; from Alexandria he will easily get to Suez in eight days; and from thence to Anjengo is a voyage of twenty-five days; to Bombay twenty-eight; to Madras thirty-five; and to Bengal forty; making the journey from England to India, at the most seventy-eight days, at the least fifty-nine, and at a medium sixty-eight and an half. This perhaps to some people, may appear too nice a calculation, considering it is an undertaking dependent upon many accidents of winds and weather; but in answer to this objection it must be remembered, that great part of the voyage is performed within the Tropic, where the winds and weather are as regular as any natural periodical revolution can be; and even in the Mediterranean where only the winds are variable, they are never known in summer, to blow long between the S. and E. the only quarter of the compass unfavorable to the vessels bound from the ports of Italy, and France, to the Levant. The manner of performing the principal part of the voyage, that is through Egypt and from thence to India, is in a great measure explained in the following letter; but in that nothing is mentioned of the European part of the journey.

It cannot be necessary to offer much advice to couriers, they of course consult only the most expeditious mode of travelling, without paying the least attention to their own private pleasure or convenience; gentlemen on the contrary, less able, or less willing to bear fatigue, will wish to be informed how they may perform this voyage agreeably; at a moderate expence; and without a risque of injuring their health. The first thing to be provided is a strong second-hand post-chaise, which will cost at most about thirty pounds: a large trunk before, a small

small one behind, and a chaise seat will carry as much or more baggage than is necessary for two gentlemen, and one servant; allowing each gentleman a Turkish dress, two coats, a dozen and half of shirts, two dozen pair of common, and one dozen pair of silk stockings, two pair of shoes, and other necessities in the same proportion. This perhaps may be thought a scanty allowance; for generally young travellers prepare for their first excursion on the continent, as if nothing could be procured out of their own country; whereas experience soon teaches them that they have not occasion for much more baggage than Mr. Sterne informs us he set out with on his sentimental journey. Those who are fond of tea, and are nice about the quality of it, as many Englishmen are, will do well to take two or three pounds with them; for that which they will find in the inns abroad, is rather coarse and unpalatable. It may also be proper to take a few cakes of portable soup to serve on board a ship, and even sometimes on shore, particularly in Egypt; to which may be added a bottle or two of the essence of sillery, with which and a little vermicelli or rice a person may prepare a good mess of soup on the desert, with the same fire that serves the Arabs to boil their coffee.

WITH liquor every person may suit himself, remembering that either in France or Italy at the place where he embarks, he may purchase a great variety of good wines; and at Alexandria he may procure a fresh supply, should his sea stock be exhausted on his arrival there. As to medicines it is universally allowed the fewer he is obliged to take the better, still however he should consider his constitution, and if he is subject to any particular disorder, he will do well to consult his physician about carrying with him a small quantity of those medicines which he is most likely to require. The most healthy and robust

are not exempt from accidents, therefore every person may take from England half a dozen papers of James's powders, and two pounds of bark, which are cheap, and easily carried, and besides the former is seldom to be procured so good in any foreign country; no person however should take or administer these medicines, without having previously endeavoured to learn in what cases, and in what proportions, they may be given with efficacy and safety. This advice, especially that which relates to culinary matters, may appear trivial to travellers who have been accustomed to go from one post town to another in Europe; but in Asia, where there are no inns, a prudent man although no epicure will do well to guard against being in want of a sufficient supply of wholesome food. The necessity of carrying medicine will hardly be disputed, but neither would I advise any person to undertake crossing the great desert, without learning to bleed and dress slight wounds; by which means he may not only save his own life, or that of a friend, but he will also merely from the reputation of his skill obtain great respect from the whole caravan. The practice of surgery it is true is disagreeable to those who are not bred up to the profession; but it is still more disagreeable not to be able to administer relief to a fellow creature in distress.

THESE hints being given for providing a carriage, clothes, provision and medicines, some account may next be expected of the expence, but that is at present impossible. If government or the company should hereafter establish packet boats between the European ports and Alexandria, and also between Suez and the ports of India, the expence will then be easily ascertained, and considering the length of the voyage, be very moderate. The chaise will sell at the place of embarkation for as much or more than it cost in England; therefore the only expence of the journey

ney through Europe would be the post horses and charges at the inns, amounting to those who like to live well to about fifty pounds; to the Captain of the packet to Alexandria, if he finds the table, forty pounds; at Alexandria ten pounds; from thence to Suez forty pounds; at Suez ten pounds; from thence to India sixty pounds; and for contingences forty pounds; making altogether two hundred and fifty pounds, which divided between two makes one hundred and twenty-five pounds each. But this account of the journey, and the calculation of the expence must be understood to relate only to the outward bound passengers: those who come home will not travel so fast, nor so cheap; for in the first place they will be much longer coming up than going down the Red Sea, and consequently must pay dearer for their passage; and besides the delay and expence of performing quarantine must come into the account of the return from India to Europe.

It is said a plan is now in agitation to subvert the Turkish empire, the success of which must almost totally depend upon the part we are inclined to take in the contest: but should the Imperialists and Russians prevail; the desert between Suez and Cairo may in that case hereafter become the post road to India, and be passed with as little apprehension of danger as are any of our public roads in England. But this perhaps to some politicians may not be thought a very desirable event, lest such a facility of communication between Europe and Asia, should in the end be detrimental to our India trade. Let such men calculate the expence of sending goods up the Red Sea to Suez; of landing those goods, and transporting them on camels upwards of seventy miles to the Nile; of sending them from Cairo to Alexandria, Rosetta, or Damietta; and of reimbarking them at one of those places for the European Markets; and they will find that

that goods sent round the Cape of Good Hope at a proper season, and subject to no expence or danger of being spoilt on the way, would come at least fifty per cent. cheaper to any market in Europe.

WHEN the Venetians lost the India trade, no violence, no finesse was used to deprive them of it; the trade died away of itself, because the Portugeze and other European nations, passing round the Cape of Good Hope, could by means of the shortness and safety of the voyage, afford to under-sell them in those articles of India commerce which they received only by the more tedious, dangerous, and expensive channel of the Red Sea: But the probability of the danger of the trade by this route becoming prejudicial to ours by the Cape of Good Hope, being admitted in its fullest extent; are we to suppose that other European nations are so blind to their own interest, so strangely ignorant, or so absurdly indolent, as not to discover it, and immediately avail themselves of their knowledge? Why then, as we have not the power to controul them, should we decline participating of their profits? If goods can positively be brought cheaper to Europe that way, the India trade must unavoidably undergo another revolution; but it does not follow that we are not to possess the same share of it that we now do, while we can retain our present possessions in the east, and England continues to be what it now is, the first maritime power on earth.

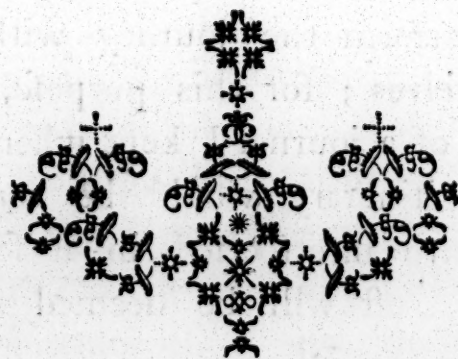
BUT whether or not the trade by the Red Sea will materially operate to the prejudice of that by the Cape of Good Hope, is not at present the question; nor is it certainly our business to try the experiment: all that is immediately contended for is the revocation of the firmaun, as far as relates to obtaining a free passage

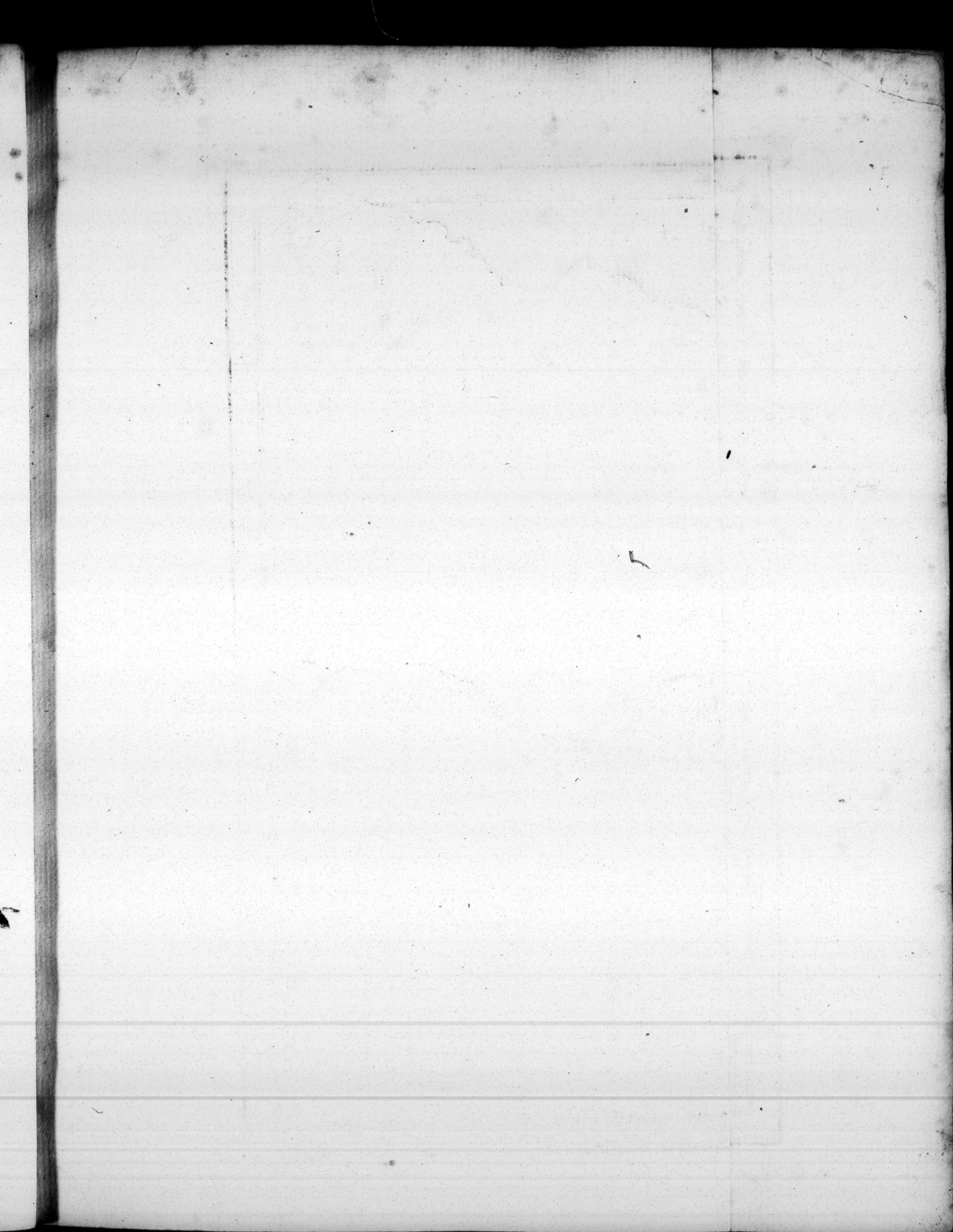
sage for our couriers through Egypt, which in common justice cannot be refused. The tenor of the firmaun essentially affects our interest, and the language of it is extremely insulting; nor should it be forgotten that it was issued in the hour of our deepest distress. Happily the scene is now reversed, of which if we are too generous to take advantage, still however it is to be hoped we shall at least oblige the Turks to admit our claims, if not apologize for their insolence and injustice.

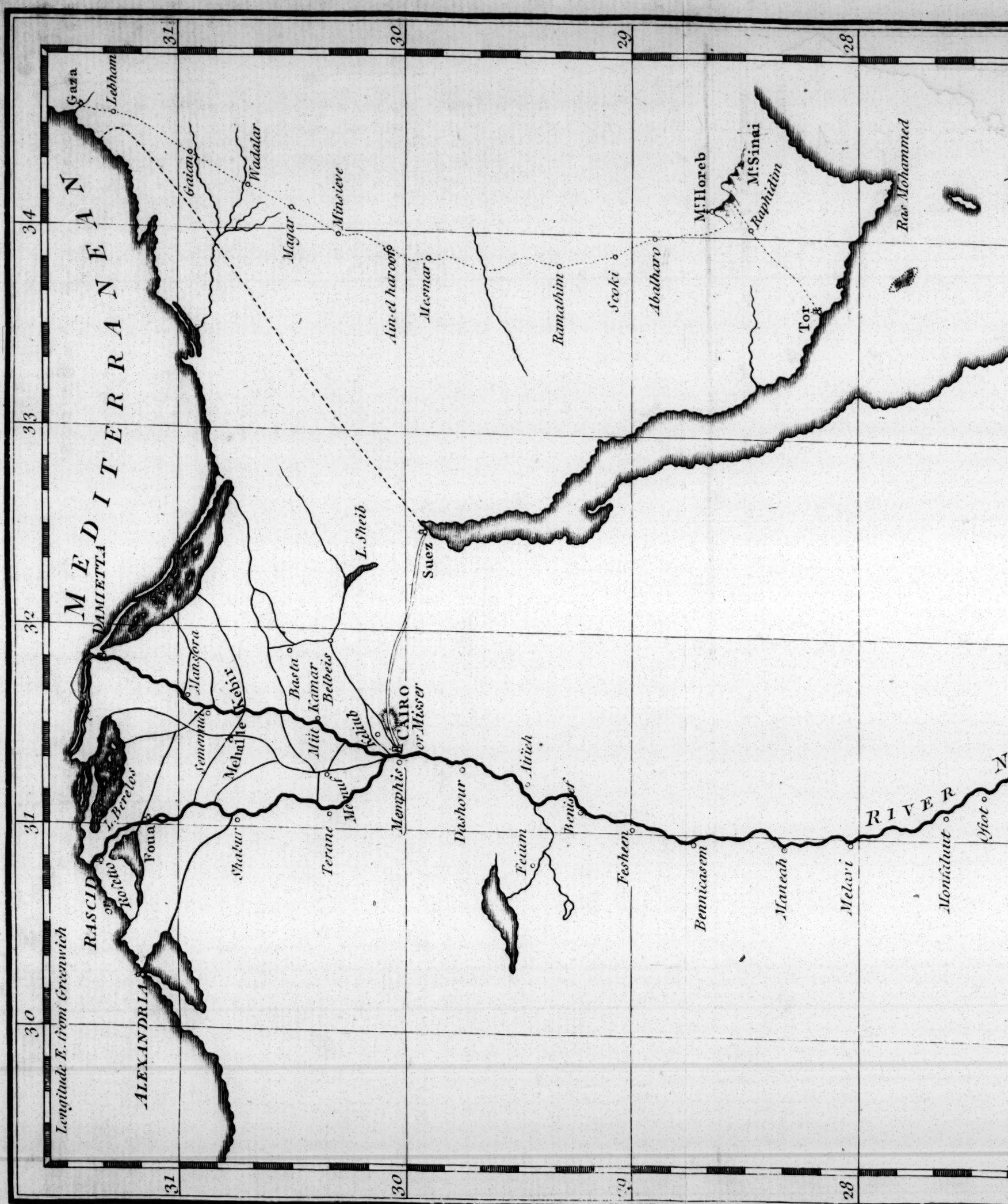
THE way to India by Bassora is fatiguing, and rather dangerous, and consequently will seldom be taken by choice, or for the bare gratification of curiosity; but as some of the company's servants may be obliged to pass over the great desert on public business, I think it incumbent on me to furnish them with all the information in my power, that they may execute the orders of their employers with safety and dispatch; and also perform the journey with all possible convenience to themselves; for this purpose, I shall subjoin to this work the copy of a journal I kept when going that route, and as a common itinerary would be very uninteresting to most readers, I have interspersed in it some anecdotes and remarks, which I trust will be deemed both amusing and useful.

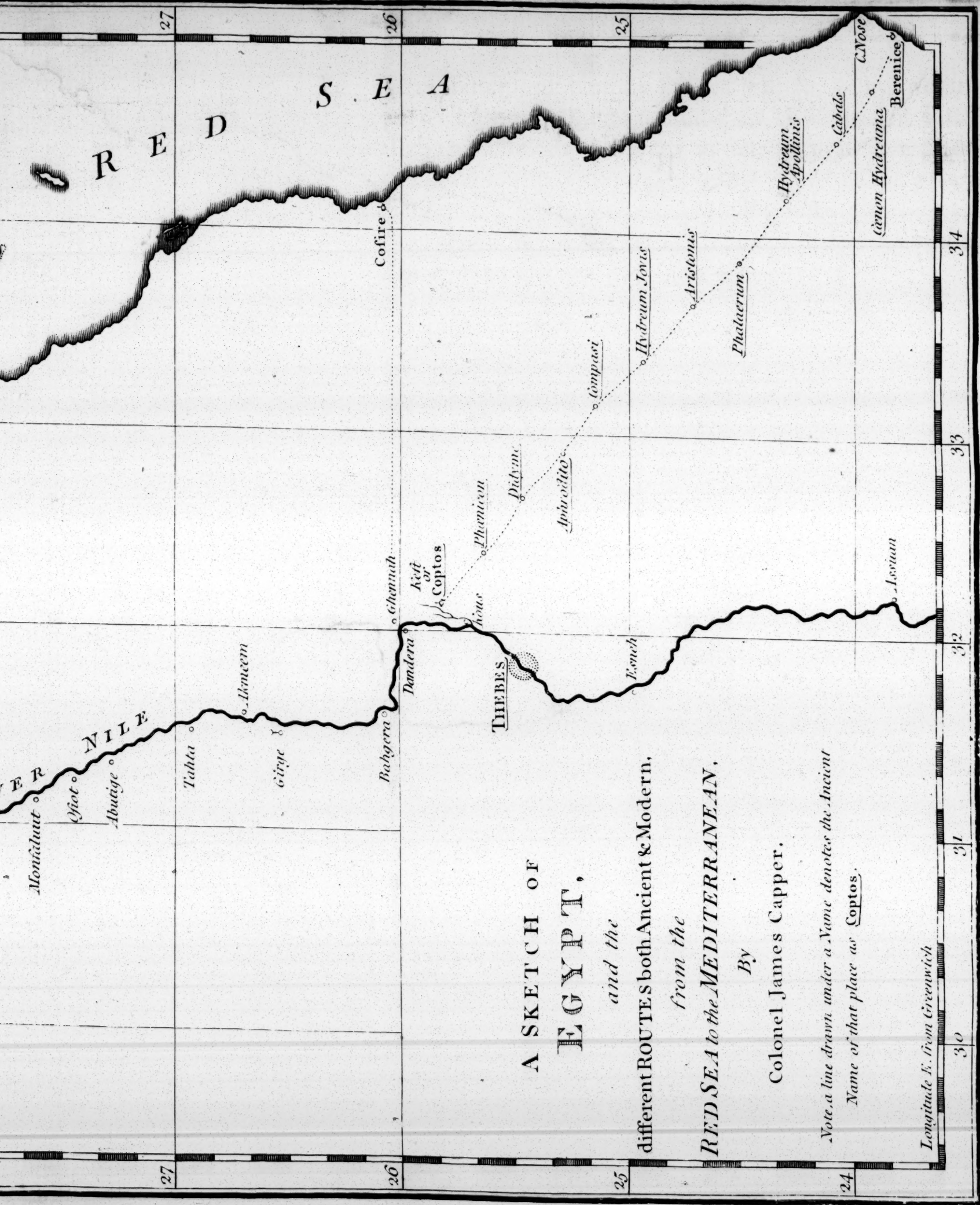
By the several ways of the Cape of Good Hope, Suez, and Bassora, we shall be able to send dispatches to and from India at all seasons; but being excluded from any one of them, there will be an anxious interval of some months in every year, when we shall mutually be ignorant of what is passing in the different countries. The best season for leaving England, to go by the Cape of Good Hope, commences in November and ends in April; that by Suez commences in April and ends in the middle

dle of June; and that by Bassora will be the best route all the rest of the year. To have a constant succession of intelligence established almost as regular as our posts at home, would be but a very trifling, if any expence; would afford general satisfaction to every person concerned in India affairs; and at the same time be productive of innumerable advantages both to Government and the East India company.

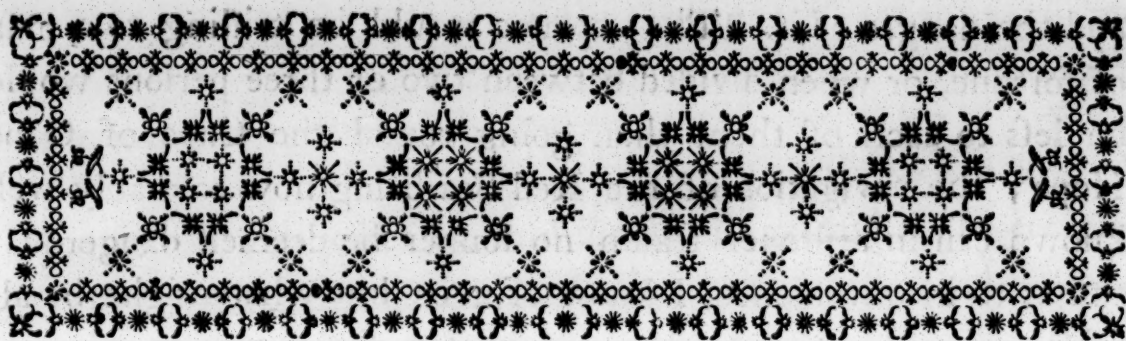












L E T T E R.

S I R,

I SHOULD find very little difficulty in writing such an account of a journey over land to Europe by the way of Suez as would be useful, and perhaps in some degree entertaining to a person who had never passed over the great desert; but I confess myself puzzled how to address you on the subject, who have already gone by the way of Buffora, and consequently must be perfectly acquainted with almost every thing necessary for a traveller to know. But as I may not be able to discriminate what may from what may not be requisite for you, allow me, Sir! to enter on the subject, as if you had never been in Arabia; the major part of my advice if not necessary for yourself, may hereafter at least be serviceable to some of your friends.

THE principal objections I have heard mentioned against a voyage to Europe by the way of Suez are the expence, the inconvenience,
C and

and the danger of it. The expence would be trifling to a man of fortune, or when divided between two or three persons would be less to each of them than going round the Cape of Good Hope; the navigation of the Red Sea being now tolerably well known can in a proper season no longer be deemed dangerous; and as to inconvenience, I know of none but what might be almost entirely removed by means of a little money properly applied. In passing from Suez to Alexandria, you may possibly meet with some disagreeable embarrassments from which a man of rank and fortune is generally exempt in a more civilized country, but most of these are to be avoided, or at least greatly lessened by giving presents of no great value to the Beys and other leading men in Egypt.

IN all Arabian and Turkish Countries, especially in those near the city of Mecca; to avoid the insults of the lower class of people, an European should allow his beard and whiskers to grow, and always wear an Eastern dress; it is best to make up a coarse one in the Arabian fashion for travelling, and another rather elegant in the Turkish fashion to wear at Cairo, and Alexandria. If you perform the journey in winter, a pellicle will be both useful and ornamental, but it may be proper to remark that a Christian should not wear green clothes at any place in the Levant, for green is a colour deemed sacred to those who have made the pilgrimage to Mecca, and to the descendants of the Prophet; nor do the Turks like to see any European in red, which was also Mahomed's favorite colour.

* THOSE who undertake long journies in Europe are obliged to furnish themselves with bills of exchange, but on this they are not indispensably necessary; a person of character may have credit to any amount the whole way for drafts upon England or India; but if you do not choose to be without a sufficient supply
of

of ready money, you should take with you Venetian chequins, which are very portable, and at the same time current in all countries between India and England.

I PRESUME you will find no difficulty in getting an Interpreter to attend you, who speaks both the Arabic and Turkish languages; the former is absolutely necessary from the entrance of the Red Sea to Suez, the latter is mostly used by all men of distinction in Egypt.

DURING the month of November, at which time I should propose to you to leave Madras, the voyage round the island of Ceylon is extremely tedious; I should imagine therefore it would be more eligible for you to apply to the Government of Bombay, for one or more of the Company's cruizers, to be sent about the middle of November to Anjengo, the one for yourself, and another small one for a tender or pilot-vessel; the captain of the ship on which you embark will of course take care to lay in a sufficient stock of every kind of provision for your table, but above all he should be directed to take plenty of water from Bombay, for that on the southern part of the Malabar Coast is but indifferent, and the best to be got in the Red Sea is scarcely drinkable. If you travel through the Travancore country with your baggage in the month of November, which is during the height of the Monsoon, the rain may spoil it; your servants therefore should set out with it somewhat earlier: in a good palanquin you yourself will be very little incommoded by the weather, for you may sleep every night in good Choultries or else in churches all the way from Pollamcotah to Anjengo*. A
mariner

* IN the East where there are no inns, they have been obliged to erect publick buildings for the reception of travellers, which bear different names in different countries; on the coast of Choromandel they are called choultries. The abovementioned churches are

mariner might perhaps advise you not to sail so soon as November from the Malabar coast; he would say it was too early to make the most expeditious passage, for that you will be liable to meet with contrary winds above Gedda. It is true if you are desirous of making a short voyage to Suez you should not think of passing Gedda before the commencement of the Khumseen wind; but for my own part, I should not hesitate about submitting to be a few days longer on board a ship to enjoy the satisfaction of travelling through Egypt in cool weather. The Khumseen wind comes from the same quarter as the well known Siroco, and is productive of nearly the same effects; it is unpleasant even at sea, and in passing the desert would be almost intolerable. The plague is also apt to break out late in the spring, and seldom rages at Cairo violently before March or April. As your captain will doubtless be an experienced officer, and likewise be furnished with good charts, it will not be necessary for me to trouble you with a nautical memoir; I shall therefore only touch very slightly on marine observations, and confine my remarks to what may principally contribute to your convenience, or amusement.

It is usual for ships in the month of November to work up the Malabar coast by the assistance of the land and sea breezes as high as Porca or Cochin, and then with the N. E. wind to stretch over to the westward, and make Calpini and Schulipar

those which the Catholic Missionaries have prevailed on the King of Travancore to allow them to build on the sea coast of his country; but the good fathers, although indefatigable in their duty, have by their zeal rather injured than served the cause of Christianity; for having received the lowest and most abandoned outcasts of the country into the bosom of the church, and not made any other converts, the Christians in India with respect to religion, are universally looked upon as the refuse of all other people.

two of the Lacadivi's; after leaving these the next land you see is the island of Socotra, which is situated near the entrance of the Straights of Babelmandel. The Arabian or East shore of these streights, to which you approach within a few leagues, affords some very romantic views, consisting principally of immense mountains and high broken rocks, with the ruins of castles upon them; but there are few inhabited towns of any eminence until you have passed the Island of Perim, which with the cape on the eastern shore forms what the Arabs call Al Bab, or the Gate.

You will lose very little time by stopping at Mocha, which is the first seaport town on the east coast of the Red Sea within the gate, where you may procure all kinds of refreshments, particularly plenty of most excellent grapes. If your stock of provisions brought from Bombay should not be good, you may purchase here Abissynian sheep, which are exactly the same as those at the Cape of Good Hope, half a dozen of which will be sufficient to last you to Gedda, where you will be able to supply yourself sufficiently with every thing necessary for the remainder of the voyage, of a better quality and at a cheaper rate.

THE sheep at Mocha are very dear, being all brought over as an article of trade from the opposite shore of Abissynia: it appears however very extraordinary that the natives of the southern part of Arabia Felix who breed the finest horses, mules, and asses in the world, should neglect to breed sheep, which doubtless would thrive very well in the same pastures; especially as mutton and lamb constitute a principal part of their own food.

THE view of Mocha from the Sea, will probably induce you to go on shore there; the houses, mosques, minarets, and even
the

the walls of the place are white-washed, which at a distance gives an air of neatness to the town, but the inside of it you will find by no means correspond with its external appearance. The Governor will certainly send you an invitation by the Company's broker to come on shore; and if you accept of it, I am persuaded he will receive you with the utmost respect. We were introduced to him as common travellers going to Suez, on our way to Europe. On landing, he caused us to be saluted with three guns, and the master of the port gave us coffee at the gate where we stopped a few minutes, to wait the arrival of the Governor's musick, and also a horse to be led before each of us: preceded in this manner, and attended by some persons of rank, we went to the Governor's house, which stands in the middle of a large square; and is built of rough stone, and unburnt brick: we were conducted up two pair of narrow broken stairs into his apartments, where he was seated on a kind of chiosque, or window seat, fronting the sea; he rose when we entered the room, and saluted us very courteously in the manner of the Arabians, by placing his right hand on his left breast, and slightly inclining his head. After some general conversation about our intended journey, which continued about a quarter of an hour, pipes, sweetmeats and coffee were then brought, and at last a censet to perfume the beard and clothes, the introduction of which, in all Eastern countries you know, Sir, is intended as a hint for taking leave.

If you choose to sleep on shore, the broker will conduct you to a house belonging to the Company, built in the Arabian stile. A gentleman of the Bombay establishment, resided here two or three years as a supra-cargo, or agent, but the plan not answering either to him or his employers he was recalled; and the Company's business has since in a great measure been transacted

transacted by the broker, who is a native of Guzerat, and speaks both English and Moors.

THERE are some few dangerous shoals between Mocha and Gedda, but nothing is to be apprehended from them at this season of the year, when the wind thus far is fair for going to the Northward. The town of Gedda is not particularly worth seeing, and therefore it is better not to go on shore there, for as the distance is only sixty miles from Mecca, a Christian of whatever rank, even although disguised in the country dress, would be liable to disagreeable taunts and insults from the mob, who almost think themselves contaminated with the breath of an unbeliever when so near their holy ground. Your interpreter, or any Mahomedan belonging to your vessel will be able to get you any thing you may want.

It is at Gedda that the disagreeable part of the voyage commences, for within a degree or two at most North of this place you generally lose the Monsoon, and meet the N. W. Wind, which as I have before observed prevails above ten months of the year in this part of the Red Sea. The Gedda pilots who make an annual voyage backwards and forwards to Suez, must of course be acquainted with all the ports, and also with the winds and currents and appearance of bad weather, &c.—It would therefore be prudent to take one of them to conduct you safely to Suez; the expence I believe would not exceed thirty pounds, and he may probably shorten your voyage at least a fortnight, or perhaps three weeks.

It is much to be lamented, that the Captain of the Coventry Frigate, who lately went up the Red Sea, was inadvertently betrayed into a quarrel with the inhabitants of Cosire, a place about
fix

fix degrees North of Gedda on the Western shore, and only one hundred and twenty miles from the banks of the Nile; a person if he could with safety, would at all times choose to land there in preference to Suez, for the upper part of the Red Sea is the most tedious and dangerous part of the whole voyage, and besides Upper Egypt is full of monuments of antiquity. The ruins of the famous city of Thebes are within a very few miles of Ghinnah, where you go to from Cosire, and the banks of the Nile all the way from thence to Cairo are covered with valuable remains of ruined cities, of which Dr. Pococke and Mr. Norden have published very learned and accurate accounts. It is said not only the Fort, and a number of houses were destroyed, but also that near six hundred of the inhabitants were killed. This account is probably very much exaggerated, but it is to be feared as a heavy fire was kept up on the town for upwards of two hours, many of the people must have fallen, and therefore at present it is unnecessary to examine more minutely into this route. I cannot however conclude this digression without expressing a hope that some atonement will be made to them for their losses, which whether they were attacked justly or not is absolutely necessary before any European ought to venture to pass that way: For by way of retaliation they will sacrifice every one they can get hold of, until some effectual means have been taken to pacify them.

THERE are many large towns on the East side of the Red Sea between Gedda and Suez, but as one Arabian town differs very little from another, after having seen Mocha it would only be a loss of time to stop either at Yambo or Tor; the former a place of great trade not far from Medina; and the latter a small Port inhabited principally by pilots, where there are wells of tolerable good water. Tor is about five and thirty miles from Mount Sinai, near to which there is a convent of Greek Christians,
said

said to have been founded by the Empress Helena and dedicated to St. Catherine. If you have any curiosity to see this convent in all probability by writing to the monks, permission might be obtained from the Arabs to pass unmolested from Tor; but the Arabs and monks are not always on good terms, as the rapacity of the former, the defenceless state of the latter, and the bigotry of both parties, occasion frequent disputes between them. The monks to guard against any surprise constantly keep their doors shut, and when they have occasion to go out or come in are drawn up in a basket to one of the windows of their convent, which are not less than forty feet high; but they seldom however go out having every article of provision for their table within their own walls, which are rather more than three quarters of a mile in extent.

THE voyage from Tor to Suez may easily be performed in one day with a fair wind, but at any rate in five. Immediately as a ship appears in sight of Suez, a boat is sent on board to enquire the purpose of her coming: and the officer generally brings a present from the Governor consisting of a sheep or two, some small flat cakes of bread, a jar of water, and a small quantity of fruit, particularly oranges, which are juicy and of a very delicious flavour. As the messenger is a man of some rank, it is usual to salute him with three guns, and to entertain him with coffee, tobacco, sweatmeats, &c. When he returns on shore he will carry a letter for you to any person at Cairo, and it will be forwarded by express the same evening, together with an account of your arrival to the principal Bey of Cairo, who is called Sheick Belled. It would not be prudent to write any secrets in the letter, but you may send instructions concerning your journey, and directions to have a vessel prepared for you at Alexandria. Your rank you may conceal or mention as you think proper. In my
D opinion

opinion supposing they have no reason to suspect you of carrying money or jewels to any great amount, it would be better to make yourself known. They may indeed expect presents accordingly, but then their attention to you will also be proportioned to your liberality to them, the difference of expence will be but trifling to a man of fortune, and the conveniencies you will derive from being thought a person of high station will be very great. Lord A. Percy who was at Cairo in the year 1776, appeared there in his proper character and was treated with great politeness, nor if I was well informed, was there a great disproportion between the presents he gave, and those he received in return. A person who from necessity is obliged, or from disposition inclined to be a rigid œconomist, should not attempt to travel for curiosity or pleasure in the Levant; where the insolence and bigotry of the natives can only be got the better of by an appearance of wealth and liberality, should business oblige him to pass that way he must do the best he can. The Governor of Suez is generally one of the Beys or Lords who compose the Aristocracy in Egypt, his rank of course entitles him to some attention. If you chuse to visit him it is only necessary to announce your intention the day before, and to fix the hour you will go on shore, and he will doubtless receive you with civility. But as the answer of your letter to Cairo will probably come back in four days at most, it will perhaps be better to wait until it arrives: for the Governor of Suez will not know what reception to give you until he hears from Cairo, and in the mean time you may plead ill health for staying on board the ship.

THE most acceptable presents you can offer them are short double barrell'd silver mounted guns or pistols, if bell mouthed the better, china bowls, small French gold repeating watches, shauls, keemkaubs, or pieces of muslin. Any of these things
given

given to the Governor of Suez, and also some trifle of the same kind to the officer of the customs, who is a servant to the Grand Signior, and appointed by the Bashaw at Cairo, will ensure you great respect, and prevent your baggage from being searched and tumbled. A cautious man or an economist might object to a declaration of your rank, lest your supposed wealth being communicated to the Arabs, should tempt them to attack you in passing the desert; for my own part I do not think there is any danger of it, and indeed I am convinced there is more risque in subjecting yourself to be discovered by accident, than by publicly avowing your rank, and that the purposes of your journey are curiosity and amusement. The present Duke de Lafoens a Portuguese nobleman, was incognito at Alexandria nearly at the same time that Lord Percy appeared there in his proper character, and whilst the latter was allowed to ride on horseback, attended by guards, and received presents of horses and other things nearly equivalent to what he gave to the Beys, an order was issued to arrest the former, and it was with some difficulty that assisted by Mr. Baldwin he made his escape on board a ship lying at Alexandria. The Sheick Belled has great authority over both the Turks and Arabs, and therefore protected by his guards, which probably he would send to escort you as soon as he is informed who you are, you would pass the Isthmus of Suez without any danger of being molested.

THE distance from Suez to Cairo is not more than seventy miles, some people have represented this little journey as very fatiguing and dangerous. I have already given my opinion of the danger, which with common discretion I must repeat appears to me perfectly imaginary; and as to fatigue you may travel in a tukt-rawan or litter carried by camels or mules, the motion of which is not very uneasy: these machines are easily

procured at Cairo, but it would be most adviseable for you to get one made at Bombay of bamboo, which would be both light and commodious, and serve you both as a travelling carriage and a tent. Should you not choose to be encumbered with a tuktrawan, nor the Bey send you a horse, your agent will probably procure you one at Cairo; but at the worst, you may borrow one of the Arabian guards who escort you from Suez, and these horses, although not very handsome are far from being unpleasant to ride, as their paces are agreeable, and they are intirely free from vice.

WHEN the day of your departure from Suez is fixed, you should make a large provision of bread and ready dressed meat, fowls, mutton, &c. the season being cold, such things will keep good for three or four days, which is longer than you can well be on the road to Cairo. Your party will always halt at night when you may dress any thing, if you prefer hot victuals to cold. There is no water on the desert, and therefore I would advise you to take a few dozen bottles in baskets from the ship; for that at Suez is rather brackish, and besides the Arabs carry theirs in skins, which are not always very clean.

NOTWITHSTANDING I think there is no danger of being molested by the Arabs, especially after having taken the precautions I have already mentioned; yet to put it past a doubt, I would advise you when the passport comes from Cairo, to send your baggage forwards a couple of days before you; and when you have heard by express sent back to you that it is advanced about half way to Cairo, unincumbered with a string of camels, that move slowly and detain each other, you may then set out, and without travelling in the heat of the day, arrive yourself at most in eight and forty hours, allowing even a proper time for sleep and refreshment

freshment on the way. The Arabs, unless tempted by the hopes of plunder, or provoked by some act of hostility, are never guilty of any violence to travellers of any denomination; therefore if your baggage passes unmolested, which must ever be the sole object of their attack, your person will be perfectly safe. This journey might be performed with great ease in eighteen or twenty hours, but then your baggage must be left behind, nor will you easily persuade your escort to keep up with you at this rate of travelling.

THE face of the country nearly resembles that of the great desert, being barren and entirely destitute of trees, excepting a few of the Egyptian thorn, bearing a yellow flower. Within about twenty miles of Cairo, you meet with rocks amongst which you may find a stone that resembles petrified wood beautifully variegated. I thought it sufficiently curious to be taken to Europe, and therefore carried a few small pieces with me, which were much admired at home.

It is necessary to get to Cairo before sun set, at which time the gates are shut; for if you arrive five minutes after they are closed, you will be obliged to pass the night very uncomfortably in the suburbs amongst poor Arabian huts. But independent of this inconvenience it is very desirable to be near Cairo about the middle of the day to enjoy one of the most pleasing prospects I have ever seen; the beauties of which perhaps are somewhat heightened by coming after a succession of views every one more dreary and desolate than the other.

WHEN about three miles from Cairo, from the summit of one of these Hills you perceive that city situated in a fertile valley, and watered by the Nile which meanders at the side of, and
beyond

beyond its walls through a rich country as far as the eye can reach each way. To the S. W. is an immense high rock, at the foot of which and adjoining to the town is the citadel and palace; to the North and N. W. the buildings cover a space of at least ten or twelve miles in circumference amongst which are many magnificent tombs and mosques, whose domes and adjoining columns give a variety to this view surpassing even that of the best built towns in the Catholick countries, where the churches add greatly to the beauty of their external appearance. The weather was rather hazy the day we were on this hill, or I should suppose we must also have perceived the Pyramids in the back ground of this charming landscape.

UPON entering the gates of the city you are not stopt and interrogated as you generally are coming into the towns on the continent of Europe, but your guides conduct you immediately to the house of your European correspondent, and he the next day will settle with the officers of the customs about your baggage, if they have sealed up your trunks at Suez, as they usually do, you should not suffer those seals to be taken off, or broken, for they may be glad of such a pretence for threatening you with the displeasure of government, in order to demand a considerable bribe for hush money: these artifices they will be likely enough to practise upon you if you afford them an opportunity, especially if you conceal your name and rank.

THE officers of the customs at Suez sealed up our trunks, and also our pacquets, and in this manner we carried them to Cairo; but as much rain fell whilst we were crossing the desert, we opened our trunks and boxes in order to dry our clothes, but above all our papers; not however without having previously consulted a gentleman at Cairo concerning the propriety
of

of it. The next morning when the custom-house officers came to examine our baggage, being told of what we had done, they affected to believe we had broken the seals to conceal some prohibited goods, or at least to avoid paying the proper duties. We might perhaps have been able to pacify them by means of a little money, but our friend slighted their menaces, trusting he should get the Sheick Belled to interfere in our behalf; unfortunately for us he was again deceived, and in the end this little act of inadvertency cost us near three hundred pounds, together with no little anxiety on account of being detained several days at Alexandria by the order of the Bashaw.

AFTER your arrival at Cairo, I would advise you as well for health as for pleasure, almost immediately to repair to the hammam or bagnio. The Turkish manner of bathing is infinitely superior to any thing of the kind that is now known, or at least practised in any part of Europe, for even most of the inhabitants of Italy, once so famous for the magnificence of their baths, have long neglected this luxurious but salutary custom; as some of your friends may never have seen a Turkish bagnio, I shall attempt a description of that I used, which was one of the common sort, such as are to be met with in every city in the Levant.

THE first room is the undressing chamber which is lofty and spacious, about twenty-five feet long and eighteen wide; near the wall is a kind of bench raised about two feet from the floor, and about seven or eight feet wide, so that after bathing a person may lie down upon it at full length; the windows are near the top of the room, as well that the wind may not blow upon the bathers when undressed, as for decency's sake. After undressing a servant gives you a napkin to wrap round you, and also

also a pair of slippers, and thus equipped you are conducted through a narrow passage to the steam room or bath, which is a large round building of about twenty-five feet diameter paved with marble, and in the centre of it is a circular bench where you are seated until you find yourself in a profuse perspiration; then your guide or attendant immediately begins rubbing you with his hand covered with a piece of coarse stuff called Kessay, and thereby peels off from the skin a kind of skurf, which cannot be moved by washing only. When he has rubbed you a few minutes he conducts you to a small room, where there is a hot bath about four feet deep and ten feet square, in which he will offer to wash you having his hand covered with a smoother stuff than before; or you may have some perfumed soap given you to wash yourself: After you have remained here as long as is agreeable you are conducted to another little side room, where you find two cocks of water the one hot the other cold; which you may throw over you with a bason, the water being tempered to any degree of warmth, or perfectly cold if you prefer it. This being the last ablution, you are then covered with a napkin, and from hence again conducted to the undressing room, and placed upon the before-mentioned bench with a carpet under you, and being extended upon it at full length, your attendant again offers to rub you dry with napkins. Some people have their nails cut, and also are shampoed;*

* SHAMPOING is variously performed in different countries. The most usual manner is simply pressing the hands and fingers upon the body and limbs, particularly near the extremities, so as to compress, but not to pinch them. This is the general manner practised by the servants of the Asiatics, but the barbers and the guides at the baths make also the joints and even the vertebræ of the back crack by a sudden jerk, which to people unaccustomed to it in their youth, is rather a painful sensation. The Chinese and Malay barbers particularly excel in this art, which however is very well known, and generally practised all over Asia, being by them thought a necessary substitute for exercise during the hot weather.

the Turks generally smoak after bathing and the operation of shampoing, and in about an hour, a few minutes more or less, they commonly dress and go home.

It is to be wished that some able physician would take the trouble of informing us what would be the probable effects of the use of the Turkish baths in England. If we were to judge by a comparison between the endemical disorders of Asia and Europe, we should suppose that the moderate use of the bath might render the gout and rheumatism as uncommon in this part of the world, as they are in the other.

VERY few Asiatics are afflicted with these complaints, although they eat their meat very highly seasoned with spices, and stewed in clarified butter; seldom take any exercise, and even many of them secretly indulge in other excesses, which with us are supposed to cause the gout. Why then may we not allow some degree of efficacy in warm baths, and shampoing in throwing off those humours, which not being removed, occasion the gout and other chronical disorders amongst us; but my knowledge of these matters being very superficial, I only humbly suggest these ideas to the faculty for their consideration and opinion: thus much however I can pretend to say from my own experience, that the warm bath is very refreshing after undergoing violent fatigue. In coming from Suez to Cairo, a journey of seventy miles, I was exposed to very bad weather, for two days and two nights, with no tent or covering but a cloak. On my arrival at my journey's end very much harrassed with fatigue and benumbed with cold I went into a warm bath, in which having remained about half an hour I was perfectly recovered, and never in my life was in better spirits, or more able to have pursued my journey.

THE day of your arrival at Cairo you must determine whether or not you will visit the Sheick Belled, and the Bashaw, which will I suppose in a great measure depend upon their own behaviour, or rather perhaps upon the character in which you chuse to appear. If you travel incognito there will be no occasion for you to go near them; but in that case you must submit to the mortification of riding about on a jack ass, as all Christians do excepting those who have express permission to use a horse: but as Lord A. Percy, and also Lord Charlemont before him were both allowed horses, your agent no doubt will be able to procure you the same indulgence; but then as I have already observed, presents of some value will be necessary both to the Sheick Belled, and the Bashaw. We were informed it was not necessary to visit the Bashaw, whose authority in the country they told us was merely nominal; but this to our cost I have already said we found to be a mistake; for had we paid proper attention to him, or in other words had we waited upon him, and given him a trifling present, the affair of opening the pacquets would have been passed over in silence. To guard you against the same inconveniences that we experienced through ignorance of the nature of the Egyptian government, I shall attempt to give you a general idea of it.

EGYPT is divided into twenty-four provinces, each of which is governed by a Sangiack or Bey: the major part of these twenty-four Beys reside at Cairo, where always once a week, and sometimes oftener they set in council, called by them the Divan: the Sheick Belled is the president of the council, and executive member of the government; his office is somewhat similar to that of the Doge of Venice, with rather more authority, but that indeed depends upon a variety of circumstances, such as whether he is a man of great abilities and firmness himself;

self; whether he is supported by a large party amongst his colleagues; and whether or not he is on good terms with the Bashaw. When I was at Cairo the Sheick Belled was rather a weak man, and owed his safety to the mutual jealousy of two rival Beys nearly of equal power, who both aspired to his place. The Bashaw is sent from the Porte as Viceroy on the part of the Grand Signior; if he can contrive to sow sedition amongst the Beys, and secretly attach himself to the strongest party, whilst he seems to observe a strict neutrality, he sometimes acquires more influence than even the Sheick Belled himself; but then he must act with great care and circumspection, for should his intrigues be discovered, and the adverse party to his prevail, he certainly will be obliged to quit the country.

THE manner of his dismissal is characteristic of the gloomy and arbitrary proceedings of this oriental republic. The Beys having come to a resolution of sending him away, dispatch a Carracoulouck from the Divan or council to his house, who approaches the place where the Bashaw is seated, and having silently turned up the corner of the carpet, abruptly goes away; he is however obliged to carry an order with him, which he puts into his bosom, leaving out a corner of it so as to be plainly perceived. The name Carracoulouck signifies a black messenger, for he is dressed in black, with a sort of bonnet on his head, of the same colour.

THE Bashaw never pretends to oppose this mandate or rather hint from the Divan, knowing that resistance would very probably cost him his life. He therefore as soon as possible retires quietly to Boulako, situated about two miles and a half to the westward of Cairo; or when he suspects a violent degree of resentment against him, he proceeds to Rosetto, and from

thence by the first conveyance to Cyprus, where he remains until he hears from Constantinople.

THE Divan or council of the Beys to keep up appearances with the Porte dispatch a special messenger to Constantinople complaining of the misconduct of the Bashaw; but the Grand Signior conscious of his inability to support his officer, takes no other notice of his dismissal than in sending another Bashaw to Cairo, and often imposing a fine on the one who has been disgraced. Such, Sir, is the general outline of this Government, and as it is impossible for you, during your short stay in Egypt, to discover the secret intrigues of the state, so as to judge which party predominates, you perhaps will think it most prudent to be equally attentive to both. On a future occasion when possessed of full information, and more leisure, I shall probably trouble you with some further observations on this extraordinary government, but I shall conclude the present account with a curious trait of their policy, which has no precedent that I know of in any other country whatever.

THE children of the Beys cannot inherit either the rank or the property of their fathers, nor even be appointed to any office which it is deemed proper for a Bey to hold. It is true the Divan after the death of a Bey, appropriates a part of his property to the maintenance of his family, but the remainder goes to his casheef or lieutenant, who generally succeeds both to his office and estate. These casheefs are Georgian or Circassian slaves, whom the Bey has bought and adopted when young, and of course educated with great care and tenderness, with a view of leaving them grateful guardians to their orphan children. This law was doubtless suggested to them by their dislike to monarchy and predilection for a republic; but surely it
first

first took place during the administration of some childless person, or the voice of nature would have suppressed the dictates of policy.

THE city of Cairo and its environs as you well know are full of curiosities, but nothing attracted my attention so much as the infinite variety of people in the public streets, and yet I could discover nothing like an original national character among them. The present Egyptians are an heterogeneous mixture of all nations, and having unfortunately retained only the worst features both of the minds and persons of their ancestors, in my opinion they are now become the most disagreeable and contemptible nation on earth, bearing no more resemblance to the former Egyptians, than the present ruins do to their once magnificent buildings.

WHEN you have sufficiently gratified your curiosity at Cairo you may proceed from thence to Alexandria by land; but you will go with much greater ease, expedition and safety as far as Rosetto by water; there are two sorts of boats on the Nile, the one resembling a Bengal budgerow or barge, and the other somewhat like a Moor punkey,* but the generality of Egyptian boats are inferior to those of Bengal, both with respect to elegance and accommodation. I took one at Cairo of eighteen oars, in which I arrived at Rosetto in thirty hours, about two thirds of the men constantly rowing whilst alternately the others slept: the

A Bengal budgerow resembles the barges of the city companies; a Moor punkey is a long narrow boat to row with ten or twenty oars; the former is used for travelling up and down the great rivers in Bengal, and the provinces to the North of it; the latter is seldom used but in coming down with the current, with the assistance of which when the river is full they are supposed to go at the rate of ten or twelve miles an hour.

banks

banks of the river are covered with well inhabited towns and villages, but as the natives of this part of the country bear not the best of characters, and are particularly inimical to Europeans, it will not be prudent to trust yourself among them. It is even thought necessary at night, to carry a light in a paper lanthorn, under the tilt or deck of the boat, to shew that you are Europeans and alert, or these pirates will sometimes attack you in hopes of plunder. Should you come to an anchor you must also be watchful that they do not swim off from the shore, and pilfer something out of the boat, at which they are very expert.

THE objection against going all the way to Alexandria by water, is the surf at the Bogaz or mouth of the river at Rosetto, which renders this part of the voyage rather dangerous. It will therefore be better to go on shore at Rosetto, and from thence proceed by land, the distance is about thirty three miles: Christians are allowed to make this journey upon camels or mules, and even upon horses if they will go to the expence of hiring them. If you set out from Rosetto about eight o'clock in the evening, you may arrive at Alexandria at day break, which in a moon light night is the most agreeable manner of travelling, for you would thereby avoid the heat of the sun, which in the middle of the day even in the winter season is very unpleasant.

IN advising you to travel by night from Rosetto to Alexandria, I do not mean that you should depart from Rosetto the night of your arrival, for if you can stay there you will find sufficient amusement for a week at least, not that Rosetto itself I believe abounds with antiquities, but there are many modern buildings, in and near the city very well worth seeing. It is a place much respected by the Mahomedans, who say if Mecca was to be taken from them, that the pilgrims who now go thither, would in
future

future visit Rashid i. e. Rosetta; which opinion is probably founded on a tradition that one of Mahomed's nearest relations, formerly lived, and is now buried at a mosque which is situated at the North part of the suburbs. The length of this city is near two miles but it is not more than half a mile broad; in the environs of it there are many country houses belonging to Christian merchants whose gardens abound with exceeding fine Oranges, and many of the choicest fruits of the East, but what contributes most to make it an agreeable residence to them, is the liberality and politeness of the Mahomedan inhabitants, who notwithstanding the reputed sanctity of the place are particularly civil to the Christians, whereas at Damietta which is situated only on the opposite or pelusian side of the Delta, an European cannot appear without a certainty of being insulted. For this violent antipathy no other reason can be assigned, but that during the crusades considerable detachments of the Christian armies used to land there, and the accounts of the ravages they committed being transmitted to posterity has fixed a deep rooted resentment in the minds of the Damiettans, that will never be eradicated as long as those stories are remembered.

EUROPEAN travellers in general complain of the ill treatment they meet with in all the countries of the Levant, but particularly when they are examining the ruins of ancient cities: the jealousy shewn by the Mahomedans on these occasions is always imputed to religious prejudices, or the want of urbanity, but I shall beg leave to account for it in another manner.

It is generally believed by them that all Europeans are deeply versed in the abstruse and occult sciences, which makes them consider us in the same light as the vulgar and ignorant in Europe consider our fortune tellers or conjurors, that is with a
kind

kind of admiration mixed with fear and detestation. Added to this prejudice, they are also thoroughly persuaded from the stories they daily hear repeated out of the Arabian Nights Entertainments, that there are many subterraneous palaces in their country full of pearls and diamonds, in search of which they suppose the Europeans are come to Egypt: we always acknowledge that we are looking after curiosities, which serves to confirm them in their error; for as they have not the most distant idea of what we mean by curiosities, they naturally conclude we are looking for the pearls and diamonds supposed to be concealed in those same palaces; which opinion also is strongly corroborated by the zeal and anxiety shewn by our antiquarians in their researches.

As the mean heat of a country is said to be nearly ascertained by the mean heat of the springs; so are the genius and character of a nation discovered by perusing their favorite books; for which reason I advise you by all means to peruse these Arabian Nights Entertainments before you set out on your journey. Believe me, Sir, they contain much curious and useful information. They are by many people erroneously supposed to be a spurious production, and are therefore slighted in a manner they do not deserve. They were written as I have already hinted by an Arabian, and are universally read, and admired throughout Asia by all ranks of men, both old and young: considered therefore as an original work descriptive as they are, of the manners and customs of the East in general, and also of the genius and character of the Arabians in particular; they surely must be thought to merit the attention of the curious; nor are they in my opinion entirely destitute of merit in other respects, for although the extravagance of some of the stories is carried too far, yet on the whole one cannot help admiring the fancy and invention of the author,

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in striking out such a variety of pleasing incidents : pleasing I call them, because they have frequently afforded me much amusement, nor do I envy any man his feelings, who is above being pleased with them; but before any person decides upon the merit of these books, he should be eye witness of the effect they produce on those who best understand them. I have more than once seen the Arabians on the desert sitting round a fire listening to these stories with such attention and pleasure, as totally to forget the fatigue and hardship with which an instant before they were entirely overcome. In short Sir! not to dwell any longer on this subject, they are in the same estimation all over Asia, that the adventures of Don Quixote are in Spain; and I am persuaded no man of any genius or taste would think of making the tour of that country, without previously reading the works of Cervantes.

ABOUT half way between Rosetta and Alexandria you come to a place called Madhia, where at the flood tide you must cross over in a ferry boat, but at the ebb you easily pass over on horseback : near the ferry is a serai or resting place where you can sleep, but should it be necessary for you to pass a night on the road, you had better go to the town of Aboukeer, which is situated on the sea coast, about a mile and a half to the N. W. of the ferry, for the serai is open to the weather, and also extremely dirty, from Aboukeer or the ferry to Alexandria is about seventeen miles.

WITH respect to a description of Alexandria and its environs, I shall beg leave as before to refer you to Pococke, Norden and Neibuhr, &c. taking the liberty however in some few points to differ from them, and likewise to add some observations

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that I have not met with in either of the above-mentioned writers concerning the present and also the former state of Egypt.

THE mole of about one thousand yards in length which was built to form a communication with the island of Pharos does not appear to me to have been taken sufficient notice of by any person. As Alexandria was built with a view to commerce, this mole, notwithstanding some appearances of gothic work in the arches, is probably coeval with the foundation of the city. Of what excellent materials then must it have been originally composed to have resisted the beating of the wind and waves for near two thousand years ! Dr. Pococke with great reason admires the arched cisterns under the houses for the reception of the water of the Nile, of which however there are not more than five or six remaining at this time ; but in my opinion the same labour and expence would have been better bestowed in lining the canal from the Nile to Alexandria, with the same durable materials as those of the Mole ; by means of which the city to the end of time would have been amply supplied with water, and goods with great ease have been transported to it from all parts of Egypt. For want of being lined the Calisch or canal is now fallen in, which is one of the principal causes of the decline of the trade, and of course of the ruin of the city.

It has long been a favorite opinion amongst the learned, both ancient and modern, that the Egyptians were acquainted with the arts and sciences, when all the other people were in a state of ignorance. We are told they discovered geometry in making the divisions of land, after the annual overflowing of the Nile ; that the clearness of their atmosphere enabled them to make astronomical observations sooner than other people ; and that the fertility of their country gave rise to trade, by enabling them to supply

supply all their neighbours with corn and other necessaries of life. These arguments are however more specious than true, for if we owe the discovery of geometry to the overflowing of the Nile; of astronomy to the clearness of the atmosphere, and of trade to the fertility of the soil, in that part of Hindostan which is within the tropic, there are still larger rivers which overflow annually, a clearer sky, and a more fertile soil. The Nile only once a year affords a supply of water to the countries on its banks, and the small quantity of rain that falls there at other times, does not furnish moisture enough to keep up the smallest degree of vegetation. Whereas the rivers in Hindostan particularly those on the coast of Choromandel, are regularly filled with water twice a year, first from the rains which fall in June, July and August, in the Balagat mountains, where the sources of those rivers lie; and afterwards from the N. E. monsoon or rainy season, which continues on the Choromandel coast during the months of October, November and December. With respect to the goodness of the climate, or the clearness of the atmosphere for the purpose of astronomy, there can be no comparison between Egypt and Hindostan; for at night during the greater part of the year in Hindostan there is scarcely a cloud to be seen in the sky, and the air especially in the southern countries is never disagreeably cold, so that an astronomer would have every opportunity and inducement to pursue his studies in the open air, whereas in Egypt the sky is often cloudy, and the air so cold as to make it unpleasant to be out of doors after sun-set.

THE Indians had also very evidently the advantage of the Egyptians with respect to cloathing, which is one of the necessaries, or at least one of the comforts of life; for if we suppose men first cloathed themselves in the skins of animals, India

abounds in vast forests and extensive fertile plains, where animals of all kind both savage and tame, must have bred infinitely faster than in the barren deserts of upper Egypt; but in a hot country the natives would naturally prefer garments made of woven cotton. Now the cotton shrub is very rare in Egypt, even at this time, and it is well known to have grown in India, and to have been fabricated into cloth ever since we have had any acquaintance with that country. From these premises, therefore it is natural to suppose, that the Indians in the early ages were much more likely to supply the Egyptians with necessaries and comforts of life, than to be supplied by them; that the Indians would at least have as much occasion for geometry as the Egyptians; and that they had at least equal if not greater advantages for pursuing the study of astronomy. Thus far however all is but conjecture, for we have no tradition or history of those times, when either the Egyptians or the Indians were in an uncivilized state; but if we pursue the subject we shall find very evident proofs that when an intercourse did take place between them, that the Egyptians received from Hindostan all those articles of luxury, which the Greeks and Romans purchased again from them. It would be both tedious and unnecessary to enumerate all these, I shall therefore content myself with particularizing silk, spices, pearls, diamonds and other precious stones.

It was formerly supposed that most of these articles came from Arabia Felix, but this error has long since been exploded. It is now well known they were none of them the produce of Arabia, but were brought thither by vessels from India, and from thence were carried up the Red Sea with other productions of that country.

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It may perhaps be objected, that the Egyptians and the Arabians are generally supposed to have known the art of navigation before the Indians, and of course that although India may produce spices, &c. the Egyptians and Arabians went thither to fetch them. History being intirely silent on this subject we can only endeavour to ascertain this matter, by stating the arguments on both sides the question.

In all probability before any intercourse subsisted between the Indians and Egyptians, both people knew how to construct small boats or rather rafts for crossing deep rivers, and even for transporting themselves by water from one place to another in the same country; but at the same time it must be allowed that the Indians had much better materials for building both small and large boats than either the Egyptians, or even the Arabians; and the boats of the present day plainly shew in what manner the Indians made use of these materials. The planks are made of a light boyant pliant wood, sewed together with coir or the rind of the cocoanut made into a kind of small cord; all the larger ropes are made of the same materials, and even the oars themselves are formed of one strait pole with a piece of flat board tied upon it with a coir string to form the blade of the oar. The present large country boats of forty and fifty tons, especially those belonging to the Lacidivi and Maldivi islands are still built in the same manner, with no other difference than being on a larger scale: with these in a fair season they make voyages many degrees out of sight of land, yet nothing of the kind not even the first essays of the art could have been more rude than these now are. It is highly probable therefore that as soon as they knew the latitude of the streights of Babelmandel, and were furnished with instruments for making observations, they ventured to pass over from the Malabar coast to that of Arabia.

I MAY perhaps be asked when and how it was they became acquainted with the latitude of these streights ; that is a difficulty I believe no person can solve any more than myself, but it is possible that there was once a chain of islands nearly in sight of each other, from the Malabar coast to that of Arabia, most of which may have been swallowed up in some great convulsion of nature, so as to leave no remains excepting the island of Socotra and those of Lacidivi and Maldivi : but even supposing no such islands to have existed still surely as the Indians had good materials for building vessels, and a sea to sail upon that is governed by regular currents and periodical winds, neither of which the Egyptians had ; we may rather suppose that the produce of Hindostan was carried to Egypt by the Indians, than that it was fetched away from thence by the Egyptians.

If the Indians required nothing from the Egyptians either of the necessaries or comforts of life ; if the Egyptians got spices and other articles of luxury from India ; and if the natives of India were first acquainted with the science of astronomy and the arts of navigation, all of which I think are probable : it is but reasonable to suppose that the arts and sciences were first known in India, and from thence were brought up the Red Sea to Egypt.

I AM well aware that the advocates for Egypt will call upon me to produce any remains of antiquity in India so ancient as the Pyramids. To these gentlemen I shall oppose one impossibility to another, by asking them to trace back the building of Gour, which seven hundred and thirty years before Christ was the capital of Bengal, or of the better known Palibothra of the ancients, which was the capital of India long before Alexander's time. As a further proof that the natives of Hindostan were
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in an advanced state of civilization near two thousand years ago, I shall also beg leave to observe that a plate of copper was lately dug up at Mongheer, engraved with Shanscrit characters which contains a conveyance or grant of land from Bickeram Geet Raja of Bengal to one of his subjects, and dated near one hundred years before the Christian æra. To enter into a long detail of reasoning upon this plate cannot be necessary; I am persuaded Sir, you will in an instant conceive how long the arts and sciences must have been known in Hindostan, before these regular divisions of land took place, and the grants of them were engraved on copper in such characters as would not disgrace our most skilful artists even at this time.

THE ingenious Mr. Halhed in the preface of his Bengal grammar, informs us that the Raja of Kishnagur, who he says, is by far the most learned and able antiquary, that Bengal has produced within this century, positively affirms that he has in his own possession Shanscrit books, which give an account of a communication formerly subsisting between India and Egypt, wherein the Egyptians are constantly described as disciples, and not as instructors of the Indians; and as seeking that liberal education, and those sciences in Hindostan, which none of their own countrymen had sufficient knowledge to impart. This evidence of the learned Raja has great weight with me, especially as there are books now extant in Bengal, written in the Shanscrit language, which are copies of others said by the Bramins to be dated more than two thousand two hundred years before the Christian æra. This fact admitted, and I firmly believe it very possible to be proved, the Egyptians must appear a modern people in comparison with the natives of Hindostan; for when the former were advanced no further in literature, than the constructing of hieroglyphicks,

glyphicks, the latter were masters of books written in a language which had then attained a great degree of perfection.

BUT this is not all that may be urged in favour of the claims of the Indians, some further proofs will appear upon examining the general state of commerce at that time all over the globe. In Europe it was very trifling, and only a corner of Africa was even known, consequently whatever commerce then existed must have come from Asia. About this time there was a chain, or if I may be allowed the expression, a street of magnificent cities from Coptos to Alexandria, which continued in a flourishing state, notwithstanding the Egyptian empire frequently changed its Sovereign. Nor from any information I am master of, can I find those cities began to decline until the followers of Mahomed transferred the India trade from Upper Egypt to the opposite coast of the Red Sea, then and not before Upper Egypt became what it still continues to be an uninhabited desert. If these facts be true, and I believe they will not be disputed, we may reasonably infer from them, not only that these cities of Upper Egypt existed by the support they derived from that trade, but also that they owed their original existence to it. Nor is it Egypt only that has experienced these effects of the India trade; whatever nation has possessed the largest share of it, has invariably for the time enjoyed also the largest portion of wealth and power, and when deprived of it, sunk again almost into their original obscurity.

WHEN the folly of the crusades was over, and the remembrance of the injuries sustained on both sides in some measure mutually forgotten; the Mahomedans intent only on conquest and spreading the doctrines of their prophet, allowed the Christians to carry on the trade between Europe and the Levant, which consisted

consisted principally in transporting the India goods from the ports of Syria, Palestine, and Egypt, to those of Italy. It is well known that the Venetians for a long time engrossed the greater part of this trade, and whilst they enjoyed it were the richest and most powerful people in Europe; we may also trace it from Venice to the Hans towns by the cities to which it gave rise in Germany. But at length the Portuguese discovered the passage round the Cape of Good Hope, which carried a part of the India trade into another channel; immediately Venice declined, and Portugal became one of the greatest nations in Europe. They however enjoyed their superiority but a short time, for the enterprising and industrious natives of Holland found their way round the Cape of Good Hope, and very soon established themselves in India on the ruin of the Portuguese. Whilst the riches of India flowed into Holland, the Dutch disputed the empire of the seas with the united fleets of England and France. At last we obtained a larger portion of this trade than ever was enjoyed by any nation whatever excepting the Egyptians, and every person knows at that period Great Britain gave law to all Europe. Nor does it require the gift of prophecy to be able to foretel, that deprived of this source of wealth we shall sink almost as low in the political scale of Europe, as either Holland, Portugal, Venice, or even Egypt itself.

If all the European Countries I have mentioned derived the major part of their wealth and power from the India trade, and declined again when they were deprived of it; we may naturally suppose that similar causes have produced similar effects in Egypt, and consequently that Hindostan was the original source or fountain head of the arts, the sciences and commerce, and from whence they have since been diffused over the rest of the globe.

ALTHOUGH rather foreign to the subject of this letter, I cannot help remarking that there seems something more than common chance, in this regular progress of the arts and sciences from East to West; supposing them to have come originally from India, they next went to Egypt, from thence to Greece, and so on to Italy, Germany, France, Spain, and Portugal: from the west part of Europe they also passed over to America, where probably they will still continue to pursue the same course, until they have finished their circuit round the globe, by opening a communication between the West coasts of America, and the East coasts of Asia. The further consideration of this subject would lead me into a long train of political reflections, I shall therefore quit it, and return to what relates to Egypt.

THERE are great disputes amongst the moderns concerning the exact situation of the ancient city of Berenice, on the west coast of the Red Sea; and also whether or not there was a navigable canal between that city and Coptos on the banks of the Nile. If you have leisure to go into Upper Egypt, or can land at Cosire, you perhaps will be glad to know what has been already said on this subject, and also to receive any information I can afford you, concerning that or any other navigable canal between the Red Sea and the Nile.

BOTH ancient and modern geographers describe the remains of a canal from Suez, to a small lake of bitter water about thirty miles to the north of that place, and from thence to a canal said to have been dug by the order of the Emperor Trajan, which goes from that lake into the Nile a few miles below the city of Cairo: for my own part, I must acknowledge, I saw nothing like a canal near Suez, excepting a small water course, many of which are to be seen both in the great and little desert. With
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respect to that said to have been cut between Berenice and Coptos in the latitude of twenty-six in Upper Egypt, in my own opinion I doubt its existence. Mr. D'Anville seems to think that a road only was made from the Nile to the Red Sea, and that the mistake arose from there being a navigable canal between Coptos and the Nile, from which it was distant only seven miles. But this great geographer not having entered so minutely into this subject, as perhaps you may think it deserves, I shall offer a few words to your consideration in confirmation of his opinion.

THOSE writers who have placed a navigable canal or a road between the Nile and the Red Sea from modern Ghinna to Cofire, have probably guessed that it must have been in that situation, because it is the shortest distance from the Sea to the river, being in a strait line at most one hundred and twenty miles. But admitting any such canal to have existed in Upper Egypt, of which there are no traces to be found; it is not very likely it should be cut in that direction, for Cofire being almost three degrees beyond the Tropic, the voyage from the Tropic to Cofire, would to the ancients in their illconstructed vessels have been practicable during only the continuance of the Khumseen wind, which as I have before observed blows for about fifty days in the year: surely then had the Egyptians attempted to make such a navigable canal, they would have made it further to the southward, near the Tropic, where it would have been serviceable to them for six months in the year; that is near to the spot where Ptolemy and others have placed the ancient Berenice. Dr. Pococke who does not seem to have adverted to this circumstance of the N. W. wind prevailing so long below Cofire; thinks that Ptolemy is mistaken in his latitude of Berenice, because Strabo who had visited Upper Egypt places Berenice near Coptos; the word near however being only a relative term, may mean equally one hundred or two hundred

and fifty-eight miles, and therefore cannot be deemed any proof that Berenice should have been exactly in the same parallel of latitude with Coptos. The situation of Coptos is not disputed, and as Ptolemy, and many of the most respectable geographers have made the distance from thence to Berenice near two hundred and fifty-eight miles, most persons perhaps, will be of opinion, that Berenice was situated in what is called Foul Bay, to the southward of Cape Nose, and within a few miles of the Tropic. Ptolemy Philadelphus made a road from the one city to the other, in which he caused wells to be dug, and what would now in the East be called Caravansaries to be erected; but of which I have been informed no vestiges are now visible. This road has also by some people been mistaken for a canal, but I shall offer some objections to your consideration against the probability of any canal having been made between this part of the Nile, and the Red Sea.

THE canal must have been supplied with water either from the river or from the sea. If from the river, such a discharge from that body of water must even in the best season have deprived Lower Egypt of too large a quantity of this only source of its fertility: and in a dry season, which happens at least every fourth or fifth year, must have occasioned a famine; for as I have before mentioned the rain never falls there in sufficient abundance to keep up the smallest degree of vegetation.

If the canal was to be supplied with water from the Red Sea, an extraordinary spring tide, or a storm might have broken down the locks, and thereby overflowed Lower Egypt, so as to render it a mere salt water lake. But at least the mixture of the salt with the fresh water would have made it unfit for the purposes of husbandry, and besides the major part of the inhabitants

tants have no other fresh water than what comes from the Nile. If then the Egyptians could not cut a canal without ruining their country, or depriving themselves of a requisite supply of water for domestic uses, we may reasonably conclude they never would have made the attempt and thereby expatriated themselves. Thus Sir ! having made all the observations on Egypt that occur to me, or at least such as will come within the narrow compass of a letter ; I shall next consider what measures you must take to proceed from Alexandria to Europe.

THE time and manner of your departure from Alexandria must entirely depend upon the plan which you have laid down ; that is whether you intend to go directly to England, or whether you propose to travel leisurely, and make a tour of pleasure : You will hardly think of going to Europe all the way by land through Palestine, Syria, Asia Minor, &c. I shall therefore mention what steps you are to take in going by sea.

YOUR agent will easily procure you a vessel on freight to carry you to any of the ports in Europe, which you may have on reasonable terms if you will allow them also to put a cargo on board ; and it will be no inconvenience to you, provided the vessel is afterwards put under your orders.

OF all the nations that frequent this port, I should advise you to employ Ragusians. Their vessels are strong and well-found ; their seamen are sober, cleanly, and civil ; and their republic is generally at peace with all the different states of Barbary. Next to these in time of peace, I should prefer the French who carry on a considerable trade here, and employ in it very large ships ; there are but very few English vessels, and these are generally small and in bad condition.

If you are in haste to get home, it is best to freight the ship for two months to carry you to any port in the Adriatic or the Mediterranean, and then it will be in your own power to choose one of those places where the quarantine is short, viz. Malta, Marseilles, Ragusa, or Trieste, at all these ports with a pattenta netta, or clean bill of health, the confinement is only eighteen days. I would advise you to steer for Malta; but if the wind comes to the westward after you have passed Candia, and before you see Malta, you should then attempt to pass by the Pharo Messina in the way to Marseilles, or else to enter the Adriatic and sail for Trieste. When you are advanced up the Adriatic, should the wind come round to the N. W. the port of Ragusa will be under your lee; from whence after performing quarantine, you may land in any part of Italy. Before you embark at Alexandria, the Consul who acts as your agent, at the same time he dispatches the ship, gives you a separate certificate or bill of health for yourself. If you propose making a voyage of pleasure without being restricted in time, and can depart from Alexandria in the month of February, you will of course first visit the Archipelago, where in the different islands you will find an inexhaustible fund of amusement. It will be very easy in the course of four months to go to Constantinople, calling in the way at all the places on the East side of the Archipelago that are worth seeing, and afterwards when you are going to Italy to visit those on the West. I am extremely sorry it is not at present in my power to give you a particular description of all these islands, but at Alexandria you will easily obtain every kind of information concerning them that you can require. In your return from Constantinople, after passing the N. W. end of Candia, if you will wish to see the South part of Italy, and the island of Sicily, it will be necessary for you to perform your quarantine at Malta, but as the Sicilians suffered dreadfully from the
plague

plague in the year 1743, I am not certain that you can go from Malta to any part of that island, without being detained some days on board the ship. At Messina where the plague raged with its greatest violence, they often impose a quarantine of seven days, even on those who come from the opposite coast of Calabria, but the Neopolitans are not so scrupulous, therefore having got Pratique from Malta you may land in that city.

THE time spent in visiting Constantinople and the islands in the Archipelago, and also in performing quarantine, will bring you to Naples in July or August, which indeed is not the most favorable season; but that cannot be avoided, unless you prolong your stay at Constantinople or the islands, so as to arrive at Naples in September or October, which is exactly the plan I should most recommend, for by this little delay, you will have full time to examine countries, which are in the highest degree worthy of your attention; you will be able to pass the winter most agreeably at Naples; and you will have all the following spring and summer for your journey through Italy and France to England; the warmth of the sun increasing, as you advance towards the North.

AND now Sir! having conducted you to the continent of Europe, I shall beg leave to conclude; not however without assuring you that if necessary, I shall be happy to afford you any further information in my power, and also that I am,

S I R,

With great respect,

Your most obedient

humble servant,

FORT ST. GEORGE,

Nov. 29, 1780.

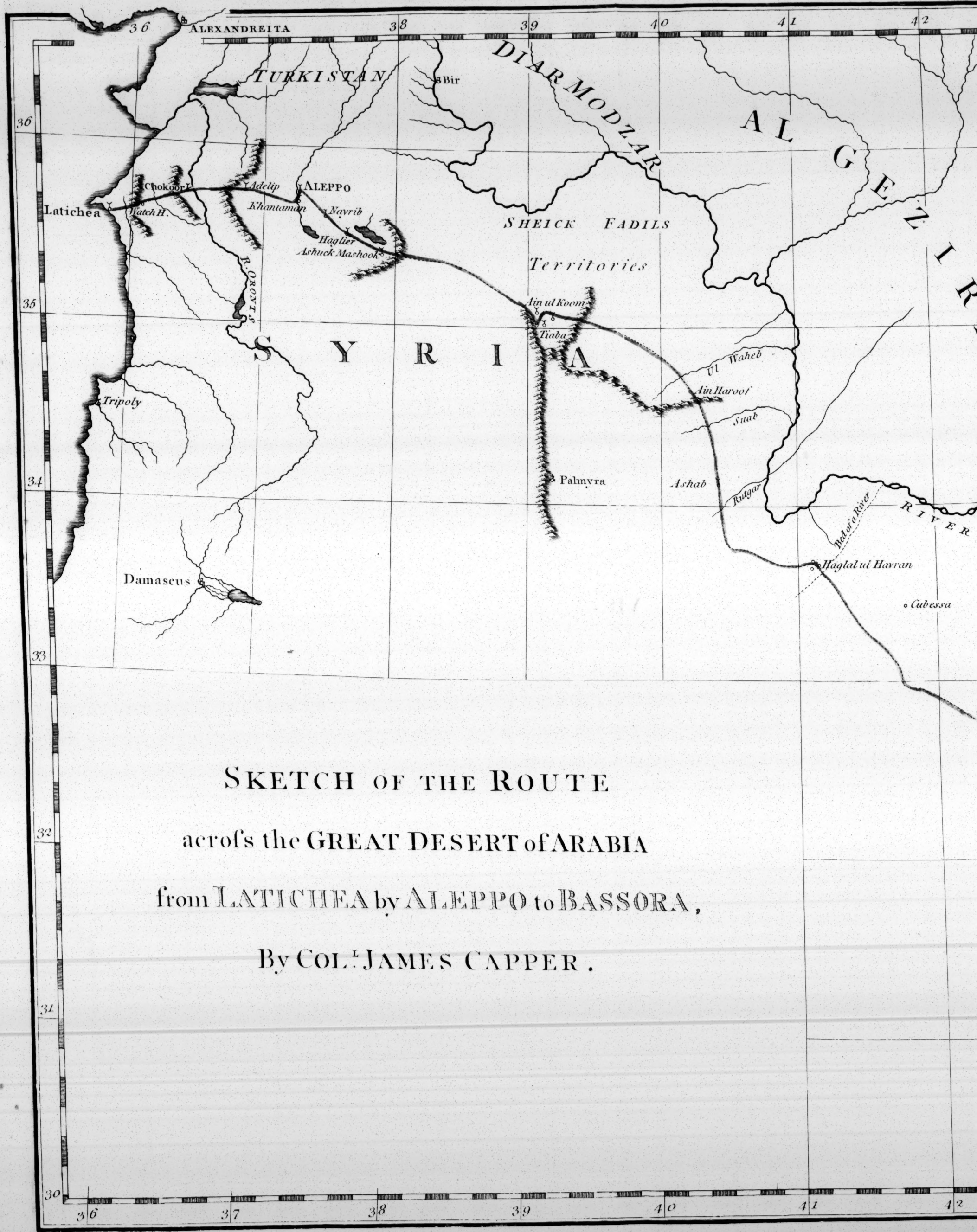
JAMES CAPPER.

1848. I am not certain that you can be
helped to any great extent, without some decided
action on your part. At present, the only
thing I can do is to send you some
of the things I have collected, and
to let you know what I am doing.

I am, I think, doing all I can to
help you, and I am sure that you
will be able to do the same for me.
I am, I think, doing all I can to
help you, and I am sure that you
will be able to do the same for me.
I am, I think, doing all I can to
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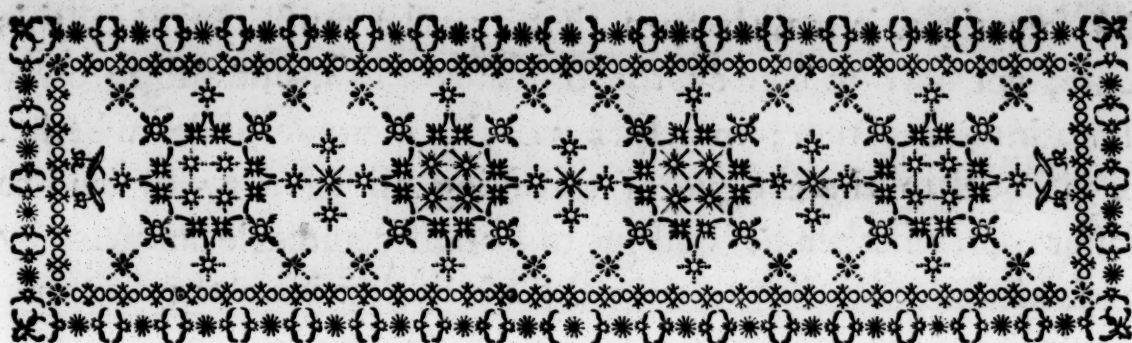
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help you, and I am sure that you
will be able to do the same for me.

JAMES CAPPER



SKETCH OF THE ROUTE
across the GREAT DESERT of ARABIA
from LATICHEA by ALEPPO to BASSORA,
By COL. JAMES CAPPER.





JOURNAL.

BY way of introduction to this journal I shall beg leave to premise, that if Government or the East India Company should have occasion to send dispatches by Bassora, after the season is past for going through Egypt; the most expeditious and least expensive manner of doing it, is by sending duplicates of the letters to our minister at Vienna, who will forward them to the minister at Constantinople; from thence one copy may be transmitted to Aleppo, and another to Bagdad, both of which in all probability will arrive at Bassora from England in less than two months. The post from England to Vienna, and a courier to Constantinople, will travel faster and cheaper than any gentleman can possibly do; as will also the Tartar couriers from thence to Aleppo and Bagdad; and when the letters contain any order or information of more than common importance, to ensure their safe arrival a second set of duplicates may be sent to Vienna and Constantinople within a week after the departure of the first.

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But sometimes it may happen that a person must be sent by this route, not only to convey the orders to India, but also to carry them into execution; in which case he should consider whether he is equal to the fatigue of travelling all the way by land to Bassora, or whether he will go to Latichea and Alexandretta by sea from some of the ports in the Mediterranean: the former is unquestionably the least subject to delays from wind and weather, but then it is also by much the most dangerous, fatiguing, and expensive; besides there are but few men who are able to bear the fatigue of riding post from Vienna to Constantinople, and from thence to Aleppo in the winter season: and the passage by sea may be greatly shortened by embarking at some of the ports in the S. E. part of Italy. Upon summing up therefore all these different reasons pro and con. I believe most people will think that letters should be sent to Bassora all the way by land; but that a gentleman had better go part of the way to Syria by sea. Two days only were allowed me to prepare for this journey, and therefore in the midst of settling my own private concerns, I had not leisure to consider what route I had best take; the orders given me were to go by Holland to Venice or Leghorn; in consequence of which I lost many days, which would have been saved if I had followed the abovementioned plan of going further to the southward before I embarked.

It must be entirely unnecessary to give an account of my journey to Leghorn, the way to that city being so well known, suffice it to say then, that it was performed in eighteen days, notwithstanding I went round by Venice, and was detained near two days on the road; first by the post-master of Gorcum in Holland, who refused to give us horses to travel in the night; and afterwards by an accident happening to the carriage.

THE Consul at Leghorn on our arrival there, freighted a Ragusian snow of 220 tons to convey us to Latichea or Alexandretta, which was ready to receive us on the 27th of September 1778, but the wind being foul we did not go on board until the 29th at six in the evening. As this Journal is not intended as a direction for mariners, I shall put down the time according to the common way of reckoning, that is from twelve at night, and not according to the astronomical day of twelve at noon.

ON the 29th of September, 1778. At night we stood out to sea, and got a tolerable good offing.

SEPTEMBER 30th. The wind at S. E. blowed exceedingly hard all night: in the morning we saw a sail, and likewise the island of Caprara, bearing about east, distance seven miles, and the North end of Corsica W. S. W. The wind in the morning moderate.

OCTOBER 1st. Variable winds and calm, saw the island of Elba, bearing S. E. distance about six leagues, and the island of Pianosa S. by E. distance about nine leagues, the weather cloudy; in the evening the wind veered about to the E. S. E. no observation.

OCTOBER 2d. Variable winds and sometimes calm, saw the island of Monte Christo, bearing E. by S. distance seven leagues, and found a current setting to the S. E. latitude observed 42. 9. N.

OCTOBER 3d. In the morning light airs, and sometimes calm: in the evening began to blow fresh from the S. W. increasing at night.

OCTOBER 4th. Continued blowing very fresh till about ten o'clock, when all at once the wind slackened, and for about an hour it became calm, and then began to blow very hard from S. S. W. we continued all night under close reefed topails.

OCTOBER 5th. Light airs and calm all the day; in the night the wind freshened at S. by E. latitude observed 40. 32.

OCTOBER 6th. Calm all the morning and very hot weather; about two in the afternoon a breeze sprung up from the S. S. W. with small rain and very thick weather. In the night saw a large Moorish vessel standing to the northward, latitude observed 40. 21. N.

OCTOBER 7th. Wind at S. by E. blowing very hard all the twenty-four hours, a prodigious high sea, no observation.

OCTOBER 8th. Wind till twelve o'clock S. by E. from thence to S. S. W. blowing very fresh and a heavy sea, saw a vessel in the afternoon standing to the N. W. latitude observed 40. 10. N.

OCTOBER 9th. Wind from S. to S. W. a fresh breeze and pleasant weather, latitude observed 39. 40.

OCTOBER 10th. Wind S. W. a fresh gale and pleasant weather, at day-light in the morning saw the island of Sicily, and the other islands near it, Lipari, Salini, Stromboli, &c. stood in shore till we were within about five miles of the land, and then stood off and on all night, no observation.

OCTOBER 11th. Wind S. S. W. rather a fresh breeze about two o'clock in the morning, made sail for the Pharo Messina, a pilot came
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came alongside about seven in the morning, and took the ship through the entrance of the Pharo, which is about three miles broad. We passed within twenty yards or less of the shore of Sicily; the price of the pilotage is not fixed, but depends upon the weather, which being moderate, we paid only two chequins and a half, they often demand five, and sometimes twenty. Ever since the great plague at Messina, there has been a quarantine of seven days, even between the coast of Calabria and Messina; the usual quarantine there from the Levant is at least forty days, and on the most trifling report of a plague, they will not permit any body to land; in which case most vessels go to Malta; the center of the channel bears about E. S. E. and W. N. W. the wind being favourable and the weather fair, I remained on deck the whole day to enjoy one of the finest views I ever beheld; this beautiful canal was doubtless made by some great earthquake, which perhaps at the same time gave birth to the neighbouring volcanos of *Ætna* and *Vesuvius*. This idea occurred to me as I was passing through the Straits, and therefore I put it down in my journal, in which however it is not my intention to introduce many observations upon natural history. Off Reggio we saw two French xebèques lying at anchor, but they took no notice of us, nor of a Sicilian vessel, though neither of us shewed our colours. The Sicilian vessels always keep a boat a-stern, in order to enable the crew to make their escape, if they should fall in with a Barbary corsair; in which case they always run the ship as near as possible to the shore, and taking to the boats, land and fly into the woods; we saw the top of Mount *Ætna* covered with smok, but it has ceased emitting fire some years past. About six in the evening we got through the Straits.

OCTOBER 12th. Wind N. W. a pleasant breeze and very fine weather, the southermost part of Sicily in sight bearing S. W.
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and Cape Spartivento the southermost point of Italy N. N. W. distance about fourteen leagues. Saw and spoke with a very clean Ragusian vessel homeward bound from Genoa. Latitude observed 37. 25. N.

OCTOBER 13th. Wind S. W. by S. a light breeze and very smooth water, with fine clear weather, latitude observed 37. 8. N.

OCTOBER 14th. A light breeze from S. W. in the morning, which veered in the evening to S. by E. fine pleasant weather and a smooth sea, at eight at night saw an Aurora Borealis which continued exceedingly bright for more than an hour. Latitude observed 36. 34. N.

OCTOBER 15th. Wind from S. by W. to E. S. E. blew fresh and a confused sea, in the night the wind came round more to the southward, at eleven o'clock tacked, no observation.

OCTOBER 16th. Wind S. W. the first part of the day light breezes increasing towards the evening to a moderate gale, rather hazy weather, and a very heavy confused sea, latitude observed 36. 2. N.

OCTOBER 17th. Wind W. S. W. a fresh gale and pleasant weather for the most part of the day; about noon a little squall of rain, latitude observed 35. 19. N.

OCTOBER 18th. Wind S. W. a fine fresh breeze, and hazy weather, about five in the morning one of the sailors fell off the main yard overboard; we hoisted out the boat and saved him after he had been twenty minutes in the water. At seven in the morning we saw three French ships, at ten spoke to one of them,

them, they were all from Smyrna and bound to Marfeilles, they sent a boat on board to enquire whether war was declared between England and France, but our Captain pleaded ignorance, to avoid being known I had assumed the dress of an Italian failor and therefore passed unnoticed with the rest. At half past five in the evening saw the land bearing N. E. distant five leagues, we imagined it to be Goza off the N. E. end of Candia.

OCTOBER 19th. Wind W. S. W. a fine breeze and very pleasant weather, saw the island of Candia, at six in the evening Cape Soliman bearing N. N. W. distant about eight leagues, latitude observed 34. 44. N.

OCTOBER 20th. Wind N. increasing gale and pleasant weather, latitude observed 34. 34. N.

OCTOBER 21st. Wind N. N. W. very light airs and sometimes calm, latitude observed 34. 31. N.

OCTOBER 22d. Wind N. N. W. a light breeze in the morning, all the evening calm, latitude observed 34. 21. N.

OCTOBER 23d. Wind in the morning at N. W. at three in the afternoon at W. by N. light airs and rather increasing; in the evening, saw the Island of Cyprus, the next morning Cape Baffa appeared bearing about N. E. distant about twelve leagues, Cape Blanco N. by E. distant five leagues, Cape Gatto E. by N. nine leagues. Near Baffa was situated the ancient Paphos, of which probably Baffa is only a corruption. In the country near this Cape the women are still remarkably beautiful, in other parts of the Island they are rather plain. The Captain finding
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a great and unexpected scarcity of water, determined to come to an anchor for a few hours at Lernica in order to get a supply, latitude observed 34. 22.

OCTOBER 24th. Wind S. W. blowing rather fresh from ten in the morning, found a current setting W. S. W. it drove us twenty-one miles in twenty-four hours, Cape Gatto N. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. distant about five leagues, latitude observed 34. 36. At five in the evening arrived in the road of Lernica, the landing place bearing W. by S. and the flag of the English factory W. N. W. distant off shore about a mile and a half. Found lying here a French frigate from Malta; in the evening we went on shore to the Ragusian Consul's house, whom we enjoined strict secrecy, and obliged him before his servants to treat us as common sailors, we returned on board again about eight at night. The town is built as other common Turkish towns are, with bricks dried in the Sun. After we went on shore, a boat from the French frigate went on board our vessel but did not discover any thing relating to us. We saw the English Consul on shore, but he did not know us in our disguise of Italian sailors, and we did not make ourselves known, lest his servants might publish our arrival.

OCTOBER 25th. In the morning till about ten o'clock calm, a light breeze sprung up from the E. S. E. at eleven the captain came on board with a Greek Pilot, and we weighed anchor with an increasing wind, saluted the French frigate when we got under way with five guns, she returned only one.

OCTOBER 26th. Wind variable mostly from the S. W. and frequently calm, in the night quite calm, at day-break saw part of the coast of Syria, in the evening at sun-set the mountains
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of Antioch distant about fifteen leagues, latitude observed 35. 2. N.

OCTOBER 27th. Light breeze at N. E. by N. Latichea bearing about N. E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. about eight leagues distant. Stood off and on all night the wind being contrary, we could not get into port, and we began to be apprehensive that the captain of the French frigate would by some accident hear of our being on board and follow to make us prisoners. Saw several lights on the shore in the night.

OCTOBER 28th. Light winds at N. E. Latichea bearing N. E. by E. in the evening came on board three French boats belonging to merchant vessels then laying in the harbour to assist us in getting in. At nine at night came to an anchor in eight fathom off the entrance of the port.

OCTOBER 29th. In the morning we went on shore to the house of Mr. Sciperas, English Vice Consul under Mr. Abbot at Aleppo, to whom we sent a letter announcing our arrival and informing him of our business.

THE present city of Latichea lies about a quarter of a mile from the old port, which in its pristine state must have been a most expensive and magnificent work ; but it is now in ruins and the ground like that of the new port of Alexandria, so foul from the blocks of marble and stone that are fallen into it as to destroy the cables of ships. The adjacent country was once famous for producing excellent wine, but there is none made now, which as the country still produces abundance of grapes, and the Mahomedans would not object to their being made into wine, can only be imputed to the ignorance, or the indolence of the Christians

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and Jews, who together constitute the major part of the inhabitants. The tobacco of this country is in very high esteem with the Turks and Arabians, and is now produced in such quantities as to supply the greatest part of the Turkish empire; it is in particular sent to Damietta in Egypt, where it is exchanged for coffee that comes there from Mocha, and also for the rice that grows in the Delta. Was this country under a good government, and were the inhabitants inclined to be industrious; with the advantages they have of a fertile soil and fine climate, they might possess not only every comfort, but also every luxury this world produces; a remark indeed equally applicable to almost the whole of the Turkish empire, which is unquestionably the finest part at least of the old world. Where nature has been so bounteous, it is a pity her choicest gifts have been so badly bestowed.

OCTOBER 30th. We remained at Latichea getting our baggage on shore, and settling accounts with the captain. What leisure time we had both this day and the next was spent in walking about the city, and examining the environs of it, in which there are many noble monuments of antiquity in a very ruinous state: towards the S. E. part of the present city is a large triumphal arch, supported on columns of the Corinthian order, and which now makes a part of a mosque: the architrave is adorned with ancient military trophies, and there are many Greek inscriptions about the different parts of the building; but these have probably been destroyed by the Mahomedans. About half a mile to the north of the city we saw several sepulchral chambers, in which many stone coffins are deposited in small niches exactly made to receive them. In the center of one of these vaults is a spring, the water of which is said to produce very miraculous effects, not only curing all sorts of disorders, but also endu-
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ing people with the gift of highland second sight ; the Greeks call it the cavern of St. Tecla.

SATURDAY, November 1st. At eight o'clock in the morning we set out for Aleppo on horseback, with mules to carry the baggage, and escorted by two Janizaries ; the first part of the road was a strong uneven country : about ten o'clock we crossed a rivulet, and in the forenoon began to enter the hills which are covered with wood : the road through them is narrow, and the ascents and descents are steep, but the horses being surefooted and accustomed to the road, we met not with the least accident ; the soil is a kind of chalk and large loose stones : the harvest and vintage had been over some time, but the peasants brought us some grapes they were drying for their winter stock. At three in the afternoon the muleteers stopped near a small hovel, where they demanded a kafar of four dollars ; the distance from Latichea I should suppose to be about twenty-five miles. As there was no house near we were obliged to sleep in the open air by the road side.

NOVEMBER 2d. At two in the morning we proceeded on our journey, and stopped about noon at the town of Chokoor, where the governor ordered us to halt for the night. The caravanera being dirty we passed through the town, and lay in an open field to the S. E. of the town, on the banks of the river Orontes. On this day's journey we passed over many chalk hills reflecting a very strong heat, but the road was much better than yesterday : we saw both to the right and the left of us many considerable towns and some villages, the inhabitants of which brought us great variety of grapes. The town of Chokoor is situated on the West side of the river Orontes, and is surrounded by a very beautiful country. A man who called himself a catholic priest, but dressed like a Turk, and who spoke no European language,

offered us an apartment in his house in the town, but we preferred the field in order to get away early in the morning, before the gates would be opened. The moon shining exceedingly bright, at midnight we began to prepare for our departure, but were detained by a fresh order from the Governor, who sent us word he had information of some Bedouins being in the road, and that in the morning he should send a guard with some money to Aleppo who would also escort us.

NOVEMBER 3d. About four o'clock we left Chokoor, accompanied by a large caravan, and escorted by horse and foot. At six in the morning we came to a kind of custom-house, where they receive the kafar; at which place the people made us halt and dismount, till the whole caravan came up to pass the hills together. We were told the Arabs were posted among the hills in the front, however, we saw nothing of them; two Turkish horsemen exceedingly well mounted and armed, who composed a part of our guard, advanced in front with us to reconnoitre. We were about an hour in passing the hills, the road over them was exceedingly bad, but afterwards we went through a very fine country, where we saw a great variety of vines, and also fig, and olive trees. About three o'clock we stopped at the town of Adelip, at a small house in the suburbs: our comrades the Turkish soldiers had interest enough in the town to get us a very excellent pillaw and some fruit, of which without much intreaty we prevailed on them to partake, we found them very sociable and useful companions; one of them had served against the Russians, and gave us a very good account of the war.

NOVEMBER 4th. At two in the morning proceeded on our journey over a very stoney road, we kept a few hundred yards in front of the caravan, until we arrived at Khantaman; and then
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about nine o'clock in the morning proceeded by ourselves over a hilly and stoney country to Aleppo. We got there in about two hours and a half, and our baggage arrived about four hours after us. Some Arabs on bad horses seeing us without any attendance, endeavoured to terrify us with an account of there being plunderers on the road, but no person attempted to molest us; however Mr. Abbot informed us we had been imprudent in quitting our guards.

To attempt giving a description of a place so well known as Aleppo would be ridiculous, especially as we had but little leisure for observation. Dr. Ruffel who resided many years in this city, has written a full and accurate account of it, which I would recommend to the perusal of every person who wishes to be acquainted either with the natural history of the country, or the manners and customs of the inhabitants. I shall principally confine myself to a detail of our own proceedings.

UPON our arrival we waited on Mr. Consul Abbot who very kindly invited us to take up our residence in his house. When a stranger comes to remain any time in the city, it is customary for every European gentleman in the place to pay him a visit, which of course must be returned; but as we were only sojourners, Mr. Abbot had prevailed on them to dispense with this ceremony with respect to us. He however constantly invited company to his house every day, by which means we had the pleasure of seeing all the ladies and gentlemen of the place. The language most in use amongst the Europeans is the Italian; however most of them speak also the French and English, and many of the ladies are conversant in modern Greek, Turkish, and Arabic. The European languages they acquire from each other, the Greek from the women servants, and the Turkish and Arabic from the inhabitants of the country and their men servants. Even
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the children speak the major part of these languages with fluency and correctness. The Europeans by a general subscription have built a small Theatre, which they have fitted up with great taste. During the winter season they perform French and Italian comedies, and even sometimes attempt operas with very great success; they politely offered to exhibit some little piece to amuse us, but the house being dismantled for the summer, we could not stay long enough for them to make the necessary preparations. We declined accepting all invitations of either dinners or suppers, but Monsieur Perdrieux, the French consul would not hear of a refusal, he insisted upon our meeting a small private party, which he entertained with great elegance and good humour.

THE Consuls of all nations always wear the European dress, but the gentlemen of the factories generally put on the Benish or long Turkish robe, with a hat and wig, which has an uncouth, not to say ridiculous appearance. Surely it would be both more convenient and becoming, either to confine themselves to the European clothes, or else to adopt entirely those of the Turks. The custom of wearing the hat in the room with the ladies, strikes a stranger also as being very extraordinary; but this is done in compliance with the opinions of the Mahomedans, who deem it indecent to appear with the head uncovered.

As there was no caravan likely to set out for Bassora, the Consul was obliged to form a light caravan expressly for us. He at first agreed with an Arabian Sheick or Chief for an escort of forty men to set out in a few days, and the Sheick as usual was to furnish camels for carrying ourselves, our baggage and provisions; but a Jew merchant hearing of our intention, offered to double the escort, provided we would take thirty camels loaded with goods for him to Graine. After some deliberation his proposals

posals were agreed to, on condition that he would also send two camels for each load of goods; these points being settled, a new agreement was drawn up with the Sheick, of which the following is a literal translation.

Translation of a contract with the Sheick Suliman for an escort of Arabs across the Great Desert from Aleppo to Bassora.

“THIS writing is to certify, that we the under-written of the tribe of Arabs Nigadi, have for our own free will agreed to accompany and conduct the bearer of this contract, Colonel Capper, an Englishman, and those of his company: and that we oblige ourselves to take with us seventy guards of the tribes of Arabs Nigadi, and Agalli and Benni Khaled, who are all to be armed with muskets; we the underwritten are included in the number, excepting Sheick Haggy Suliman Eben Adeyah.—And we do promise also to carry with us nine refeeks with their muskets, two of whom of the two different tribes called Edgelass, two of the two tribes Il Fedaan, one of the tribe of Welled Aly, one of the tribe of Benni Waheb, one of the tribe of Lacruti, one of the tribe of Baigee, and one of the tribe of Sarhaani, making in all nine refeeks, as above-mentioned.

AND it is agreed, that we the underwritten are to bring with us our own provisions, and the provisions for the guards and refeeks above-mentioned, and the same provisions are to be loaded upon our camels, the hire of which camels is to be paid by us; and we likewise agree to buy ourselves thirteen rotolas of gunpowder, and twenty-six rotolas of balls, the cost of all the afore-said things are to be paid by us, and not by Colonel Capper.

AND

AND we also oblige ourselves to provide for him and his people nineteen camels, for the use of himself and his company, to carry their tents and baggage, water and provisions for themselves and for their horses, besides those nineteen camels above-mentioned ; we also oblige ourselves to provide them two other strong camels to carry the mohafa, in order that they may change every day one camel, and to provide a person to lead the camel that carries the mohafa from Aleppo to Graine, and moreover we will appoint him a person to take care of his horses.

WE the underwritten do promise Colonel Capper, by our own free will and consent, and oblige ourselves to pay all kafars and giawayez (that is to say duties) to all the Arabs, and to the Sheick Tamur, the Sheick Tiveini, and all the Sheicks of the tribe of Beni Khaled, and to all other tribes of Arabs whatever ; and we make ourselves responsible for all what is above-written, and further when we approach the tribe of Arabs called Il Aflam, and Shammar and any other tribes, we oblige ourselves to take from them a refeek to walk with us till we have passed their confines.

WE agree to carry no goods, or even letters from any other person or persons, excepting the goods from Khwaja Rubens, which are thirty-one loads, for the hire of the said goods from Khwaja Rubens we have received in full, that is, the hire, the inamalumi, the refeeks, the giawayez, figmaniah, and all other expences to Graine ; we have received of him in full, according to the receipt in the hands of the said Khwaja Rubens : moreover we have agreed with our free will to provide for the said thirty-one loads, for every load two camels, in order to keep up with the above-mentioned Colonel Capper, and never separate from his company till our arrival at Graine ; and we also oblige ourselves

ourselves to pay the dolleels (scouts) the maadeb, the birakdar, and the chaous (officers of the guards) all the said persons we are to pay ourselves, and not Colonel Capper. We have agreed also with our free will, with the said Colonel Capper, to carry him and his company safe in thirty-six days to Graine, from the day we depart from the village of Nayreb; but in case the said Colonel Capper should be desirous of staying to rest a day or more the said delay is not to be reckoned in the aforesaid thirty-six days. And we the underwritten also engage three days before our arrival at Graine, to dispatch a messenger from our parts with Colonel Capper's letter to the agent of the British nation in Graine. And by this instrument it is stipulated and agreed between the said Colonel Capper and us the underwritten persons, that he pays us for all the services above-mentioned dollars nine hundred forty-one and one fourth in Aleppo, which sum we have received in full; besides which the said Colonel Capper does oblige himself to give us on the road dollars five hundred; and moreover at our safe arrival at Graine, on our having fulfilled this our agreement with him, he the said Colonel Capper obliges himself to pay us dollars eight hundred rumi, and in case we should fail in performing any part of our agreement with him, we then are to forfeit the last-mentioned eight hundred dollars, and all we the underwritten are responsible one for the other, for the performance of the promises as above agreed between the contracting parties. In witness whereof, we have signed with our fingers this the sixteenth day of the moon called Shewal, in the year of the Hegina, one thousand one hundred and ninety-two.

Suliman Ebben Adeyah—Mohamed il Bifshir—Ally Ebben Faddil—Haggy Isa Ebben Hameidan—Naffeh Ebn Resheidan—Suliman Ebben Gaddib—Mohamed Ebn Nidghem—Suliman Ebben Naafay.

The witnesses to the agreement are.

Il Haggi Omar Ulleed—Ismael Estracy—Il Haggi Mahomed Firous—Il Haggi Ibrahim Ulbed—Il Haggi Mahomed Emin il Takrity—Il Haggi Fathu Ebn il Haggi Usuph Maadaraloy—Ismael Ebben Achmed Tecrity.

IN this manner all caravans that cross the great desert are formed, that is to say, an Arab Sheick or Chief of known good character and great experience, engages a certain number of refeeks or associates to join with him in furnishing the merchants of the different cities with camels, to transport their goods from one place to another, and also each of the refeeks engages to bring a certain number of armed men to ensure the safety of the caravan across the desert: the refeeks are taken from different tribes, in order to lessen the risque of being attacked; for each of them carries the colour or ensign belonging to his tribe, all which colours are displayed upon the appearance of a party on the desert; and if the party belongs to the same tribe as any of the refeeks, the principal Sheick or Chief of each tribe, having generally half of what each refeek receives from the merchants; the caravan of course passes unmolested. The first-mentioned Sheick reserves to himself the executive power and command in chief of the caravan; but in cases where there is time for deliberation, a council of all the refeeks is called, and the point in debate is settled by a majority of voices.

MANY travellers give the Arabs an exceeding bad character, representing them as a faithless and rapacious people, in whom no confidence can be reposed. I confess they do not appear to me in that light; they certainly like most men endeavour to make the best bargain they can for themselves; but for my own part,
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I never found them inclined to ask for more than was justly their due. My reasons for thinking favorably of them will appear in the course of my journal.

ON the 10th of October, in the morning our baggage, servants, and camels left Aleppo; and in the morning of the same day we took leave of our friends, and I am sure on our parts, not without very sensible concern at leaving such an agreeable society. We found our encampment at the village of Nayreb, about six miles from Aleppo, where the Consul had sent his servant with a supper, we passed the night in an Arabian house as agreeably as could be expected all circumstances considered.

ON the 11th, at day-break in the morning the Consul assembled all the principal Arabs, our servants, and in short all our dependants, and having given them his final instructions with positive commands to treat us with the greatest respect, he and his brother returned to Aleppo, leaving Mr. Shaw, one of his clerks to go another stage with us, in order that we might by his means be supplied with any thing we might have forgotten, whilst we were in the neighbourhood of Aleppo. At seven in the morning, we marched, and in nine hours arrived at the ruined village of Haglier; at the distance of about two miles from it we saw a salt water lake, the length of which appeared to be upwards of ten miles, to the right were some hills not very high. About two miles from Haglier we passed a large village of houses, shaped like bee-hives, near to which we met about fifty Arab horsemen, but they did not offer to molest us: the road was good all the way, at four o'clock in the evening we encamped on a hill.

NOVEMBER 12th. We remained at Haglier to get water and feed the camels, so that they might travel two or three days with-

out a fresh supply. As my valet de chambre was sick, I endeavoured to prevail on him to return to Aleppo, but he being violently against it, I did not send him away; but at the same time not to be distressed for a servant I prevailed on Mr. Shaw to leave his man an Armenian who was accustomed to travelling, and who agreed to go with us for one hundred dollars and his expences paid back. Mr. Shaw left us about four o'clock in the afternoon, we had a little rain about eleven o'clock, the wind at S. W. In the evening we were joined by a small caravan going to Bagdad. Our own party to pass the desert now consisted of Major Thomson, whom I met at Aleppo in his way to India; Mr. C. Dighton who accompanied me from Europe; Jean Cadeo a Frenchman my valet de chambre; Babeck a cook hired at Aleppo; and Mr. Shaw's servant an Armenian, eighty armed Arabs, ten of which were Sheicks or Chiefs, and the rest their servants and dependants. Khawja Rubens agreeable to his promise sent sixty-two camels for thirty-one loads, and we had nineteen camels for carrying our tents, provisions and water, besides two alternately to carry a mohafa. We began our first days journey upon camels, to see how we liked their motion. The walk we found disagreeable, and at first a great strain on the loins and back, but the amble is like the same pace of a large horse and not unpleasant. Cadeo being ill was put into the mohafa.

NOVEMBER 13th. At day break we struck the tents and began to load the camels, but did not get away from the ground till eight o'clock, when all the caravan began to move: for the first three hours and a half the road was tolerably good, to the left we saw the S. E. end of the same salt lake we had seen before. About seventeen miles from Haglier and two miles to the right of the road perceiving some ruins we went to look at them, and found the shell or outer wall of a church built of strong

strong black granite without cement; there were four large arches that appeared to have been windows, three to the southward and one to the eastward. Near to this building was also the remains of a very large town; the Arabs said it had been in ruins time immemorial and was called Ashuck Mashook. At a quarter before three we stopped upon a rising ground, the mountain of Diaram in sight bearing about W. by N. distant about three miles. On the top of it appeared to be a ruined building, where there is said to be a well of exceeding good water, and much frequented by thieves. We saw five Antelopes but could not approach near enough to get a shot at them.

NOVEMBER 14th. It rained the greatest part of the day, little wind from S. W. at five in the morning we marched and passed over an uneven country, the soil of which is a red gravelly sand, full of holes made by rats and snakes, we saw several snakes skins. At two o'clock it began to grow cloudy and thunder to the S. W. about four o'clock in the afternoon the storm broke upon us with a hard shower of rain, which continued some time, and obliged us to pitch our tents in a place where there was the appearance of a caravan of camels having been lately encamped. The usual mode of encamping is as follows; when the caravan comes to the ground, the camels which carry the tent the provisions and the baggage are drawn up in the centre, and those with the bales of merchandize form an outer circle round them, by which means their loading makes a kind of rampart; and the camels themselves having one of their fore legs tied up form another outer circle round the goods: but when there is pasture for the camels as there was this day for the first time since we left Haglier, after being unloaded they are turned loose to browse, and before it is dark one of the drivers goes out and makes a noise somewhat like that made by our herdsmen in calling.

calling the cows; on hearing which all the camels come up to him on a full trot, and return to the camp where they are tied together to prevent their straying in the night. Our course this day was nearly E. S. E.

NOVEMBER 15th. It rained all night, nevertheless at six in the morning we marched, but were obliged to halt again at three in the afternoon, we passed this day over a clay sandy soil that was very slippery, on which grew furze and long grass. We killed two snakes about seven feet long and saw a large flight of wild ducks, which came from the S. W. and flew towards the N. W. our camp was situated in a bottom surrounded with small hills, on the summit of one to the N. E. is a white building which our Arabs told us was erected by a man to the memory of his horse which died near that spot, after having saved him from falling into the hands of some Bedouins by whom he was pursued. About four o'clock we had an alarm and our people took to their arms, the persons suspected proved to be our own scouts.

NOVEMBER 16th. The rain continued the greatest part of last night, and the wind blew pretty fresh from the S. W. At six in the morning the wind changing to due west it cleared up, and at seven we marched. We passed over an hilly uneven country, the soil nearly the same as yesterday. About nine in the morning we saw six ostriches at the distance from us of about half a mile. At one o'clock found the remains of a dead body, the head entire with some of the hair upon it, one of the arms and both the legs gone, and no flesh on the carcase; about two hundred yards further lay a blue Arab jacket, our people supposed it to be the body of a courier sent from Bagdad with dispatches for Aleppo, who had been some time missing. A little after

after two in the afternoon we halted and encamped upon a plain surrounded by small hills. Our Sheick went to the top of the highest to look out for Arabs, but saw none; he also in the evening sent two scouts to the next watering place, which is about fourteen miles distant, where we are to halt to-morrow to take in a fresh supply of water.

NOVEMBER 17th. We began our march at a quarter past seven in the morning, very fine weather, sent out scouts, and quitted the direct road to avoid falling in with an enemy. We proceeded over a very uneven country, the soil the same as yesterday. About twelve o'clock we saw the remains of a very large encampment which alarmed our Sheick, and made him collect the caravan to march in close order; about two o'clock three horsemen appeared on the top of a hill to the right of us. We drew up the men who began their war dance, throwing their muskets over their heads and shouting with great vociferation. As we advanced the horsemen retreated, we showed our colours and they displayed theirs, on which our Sheick said they were not irreconcilable enemies. We drew off to the right, and encamped in a strong post, flanked by two marshes, and covered in the rear by a small hill, on which we stationed ten men: from this hill we could plainly perceive at the distance of about three miles, an immense body of Arabs, which as they had their families and flocks with them, looked like the encampment of the Patriarchs; they first sent out a detachment of about four hundred men towards us, but finding we were drawn up to receive them, five men only advanced from their main body, seemingly with an intention to treat: on seeing which we also sent five of our people on foot to meet them. A short conference ensued, and then both parties came to our camp and were received with great ceremony by our Sheick; they proved to be Bedouins under the command of Sheick Fadil, amount-
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ing together to near twenty thousand, including women and children. After much negociation our Sheick agreed to pay a tribute of one chequin for every camel carrying merchandize ; but he refused to pay any thing for those which carried our tents, baggage, and provisions : these terms settled, the Bedouins promised to send a reseek with us, until we were past all danger of being molested by any of their detached parties. To the southward of us, and about four miles distant we could plainly perceive the ruined city of Tiaba, but the Sheick advised us not to visit it, least we should be attacked by some stragglers from the Bedouin camp. Palmira, or as the Arabs call it Tadmor, is said to be forty-five miles S. of this place, over the hills.

NOVEMBER 18th. Sheick Suliman not having settled with the Bagdad caravan, what portion of the Bedouins demand they should pay, we remained at the same encampment. The Bedouins brought some camels to sell, for the best of which they asked twelve chequins : our people purchased one and killed it to eat, the flesh of the camel being esteemed a dainty, the division of it occasioned many disputes among them, nor was it without some difficulty they were prevented by their Sheicks from fighting for it. One of the Bedouins who was sick, being informed we were Europeans, came to ask our advice as physicians ; we told him we had no medicines with us, but would write down his case, and if he would carry our prescription to Aleppo, the gentleman there would give him what was proper to cure him. We accordingly wrote the letter, and the brother of the patient set out with it next morning express, promising to deliver it in two days and a half. These Bedouins are almost the only tribe of Arabs, who live according to the primitive simplicity of their ancestors ; they never sleep in houses, nor even enter a town or city, unless to purchase what they want, or to sell what they have

have to dispose of. They acknowledge no superior but their own Sheicks, nor do they like most other tribes pay a tribute to any of the Bashaws belonging to the Ottoman government. In the summer season when the wells and ponds in the desert are almost dry, for the convenience of feeding and watering their camels and sheep, they always keep near the banks of some great river; but after the rains they move about from one place to another, seldom remaining on one spot longer than a week. They compel every person they meet to pay them a tribute; but are seldom guilty of cruelty, unless they are resisted, and any of their companions are killed; in which case they are very vindictive. The year before they fell in with us, they attacked and plundered a caravan going from Damascus to Bagdad; but their victory cost them dear, which perhaps made them more readily listen to overtures of peace from us.

NOVEMBER 19th. We marched at half after seven in the morning, and about a mile to the eastward of our camp passed by a spring of warm water, which in colour, taste, and also in heat greatly resembles that of the Bristol Wells. It is called by the Arabs Ain ul Koum: our Sheick told us there was once an aqueduct to convey this water from the fountain head, to an ancient ruined city about fourteen miles from thence, called Gufur ul Bain, but we saw no traces of it; soon after passing the well we had a good view of Tiaba, which we saw to the southward at the distance of three miles. The ground we passed over this day was a tolerable good mould, and capable of producing many kinds of grain. About the distance mentioned by our Sheick, and rather more than a mile to the right of the road we saw Gufur ul Bain, which accompanied by our Sheick we went to examine. The building is divided into two squares, and a passage between them of about fifty paces wide, each face of the largest

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square

square is about two hundred and fifty yards long, and thirty feet high; there are round towers at the distance of forty yards from each other, the gate is in the centre of the west front, and a small round tower on both sides of the gate. In the interior part of the largest square there is the ruin of a building, and near to it a subterraneous passage that leads to a kind of cave or cellar. In the S. E. angle of the square was a portico of the Corinthian order entire, and the shafts of some other columns lying on the ground, the bases and capitals of which we could not find. The walls are built of a kind of Bath stone, and the smaller square of the same materials; the inside of the small square is a continuation of arches in a ruinous state; round the top of the walls of both the squares there is a kind of a parapet made of small bricks and mortar, but we could perceive no cement between the stones of the lower wall. We were prevented taking any particular plan or view of this place by the appearance of some strange Arabs. These ruins and many others in sight of this place, are probably remains of towns and villages, formerly dependant on Palmira. About three o'clock we halted upon a rising ground, the Bedouins brought some more camels to sell, but we did not purchase any of them. Our course this day was about S. E.

NOVEMBER 20th. It seems the Sheick expected to be attacked by the Arabs we saw yesterday near Guffur ul Bain, and for that reason kept the centries very alert all night. At seven this morning we marched over rather a plain country, the soil a light white loam, with rank dried grass growing on it in clumps; this day we saw a great number of hares and rabbits, of which we killed several; at three o'clock we halted, when the caravan came first to the ground there were a number of antelopes in sight, which immediately fled on our appearance, and we saw no more of them. In the evening Sheick Suliman desired a hundred and five

five dollars to settle his own accounts with Sheick Fadil. Weather fair, the wind at S. S. W. course S. E. saw two flocks of sheep and goats, bought one sheep for seven dollars, which we killed immediately, and it proved to be very fat and good; buried without any funeral ceremony an Arab of our party who died yesterday.

NOVEMBER 21st. We marched at seven this morning over a plain country of light clay, with a kind of fern and furze growing upon it, amongst which we shot some hares and rabbits. The Arabs dressed a hare for us in the following manner. They dug a hole about two feet deep in the ground, large enough to contain the hare at full length, which they filled with furze, and then set it on fire; after the first parcel of furze was consumed they put in a second, and then a third, until the hole was almost as hot as an oven: then they put in the last parcel of furze, and without drawing or skinning the hare, they placed it on the fire until the flame was extinguished, at last they covered up the hare with the mould, which had been heaped upon the edge of the hole, so as to be heated by the fire, and thus they left it until it was sufficiently baked. The Arabs eat skin and flesh together; but we contented ourselves with the flesh only, which we thought a very savory dish. We arrived at our ground, where we encamped about four in the afternoon, our course was S. E. easterly.

NOVEMBER 22d. Marched at seven this morning, and in the course of the day passed two hills, but on the whole the country was tolerably plain, we crossed one place that had the appearance of being the bed of a river, but our people differed about its name; the soil in general was a kind of light clay with stones. We shot some hares amongst the furze. At half after three came to our ground at a place called Ainul Haroof;

we found a well in a bottom and rather deep, the water of which was muddy; weather fair and exceedingly hot, at noon the wind N. W. course S. E.

NOVEMBER 23d. Marched at seven this morning over an uneven country, the soil, shrubs, &c. the same as yesterday; about twelve o'clock we passed the bed of a river about one hundred and twenty yards wide from the appearance of the weeds and shrubs that grew in it, the water ran from the N. E. to the S. W. it is called Suab, and is said to be impassable after heavy rains. We killed some hares, but saw not so many as for some preceding days; we also saw some Antelopes and Ostriches but at a great distance; cloudy to the eastward, in the morning when the sun rose the sky looked wild, in the middle of the day the weather was exceedingly hot and in the evening cool, wind about S. E. our course S. E. halted at three in the afternoon: the Arabs when the wind blows from this quarter always cover their mouths with a piece of their turbans.

NOVEMBER 24th. Marched at seven this morning over a very uneven stony country. At twelve halted a few minutes at the bed of a river called Rutgur. About one o'clock came in sight of some hills called Manget, they bore about S. E. the country we travelled over till we halted was rather plain and the soil a light mould. Stopped at half after four, the wind N. N. E. the weather fair and the middle of the day very hot, saw a few hares, sent out three scouts to reconnoitre the next watering place, at the distance of three days journey, course S. E.

NOVEMBER 25th. Marched at seven this morning, and at noon the Bagdad caravan separated from us to proceed to the place of its destination, they expected to come in sight of the
Euphrates

Euphrates the next day in the evening; we were very happy to part with them, for they doubtless detained us very much, but we could not get rid of them without quarrelling with the Sheick, who certainly made them pay convoy money. The soil of the country much the same as yesterday, caught a few hares; about twelve o'clock passed the bed of a river, halted a quarter before five in the afternoon. Whilst we kept with the Bagdad caravan, I believe we travelled only at the rate of two miles an hour, but afterwards I reckon at the rate of two miles and a half an hour. Our course this day was S. E. by E.

NOVEMBER 26th. Last night was a frost, and the air exceedingly cold, in the morning the wind W. N. W. marched at seven, about eight o'clock saw on a hill to the right of us the appearance of a ruin, but we were advised not to go to examine it. The country we passed over very much the same as yesterday, caught some hares, halted at four o'clock on the bank of a bed of a rivulet that overflows in the rainy season.

NOVEMBER 27th. Marched at seven this morning, the soil of the country we passed over was composed of hard sand and flints, we saw some hills to the left of us that had the appearance of stone, and about three in the afternoon passed by a deep pit, that looked as if it had been a stone quarry. At five in the evening halted at Haglet ul Havran, where we found a great number of wells near the surface. When the camels came within half a mile of the place they began of their own accord to run as fast as they could, which must have been owing to their smelling the water; this was the fifth day they had not drank any. The appearance of a large encampment having lately left this place, alarming the Sheick he talked of going the next morning towards Meshed Aly, which he says is seven or eight days

days journey from hence. In the morning the weather very cloudy, and the wind at E. but it cleared up towards the evening, and at night it was a frost, course E. S. E.

NOVEMBER 28th. Remained near the wells till nine o'clock in the morning that the camels might drink a sufficient quantity of water, to last them three or four days; at half after nine began our march, we passed over a barren country, and halted at five o'clock, about a quarter after ten o'clock in the morning, we passed the bed of a deep rivulet, when we got over on the other side, we were met by one of our people who had been at Cubessa to learn news: he brought word that Bassora was certainly evacuated by the Persians, and in the possession of the Arabs; also that Mahomed Khulleel, an Arab, but a professed deist who had assembled a large body of troops to attack and destroy Mecca, had been defeated by the troops and allies of the Sherreef. The other scout did not return with the camels, this man came on foot to us, and said he did not know where his comrade was gone: in consequence of the Bassora news, the Sheick promised us we should go to Bassora instead of Graine. About twelve o'clock the wind began to blow very strong from the N. W. which produced cloudy weather and some rain; halted about half past three o'clock in the evening, course E. S. E.

NOVEMBER 29th. The wind continued to blow exceedingly hard and cold, marched at half after seven, passed over a barren country, saw to the right of us, at a considerable distance a flock of sheep: when we first perceived them they were near the summit of a hill, which made them look large, and induced us to take them for a party of horse. About three o'clock we came to a country covered with furze, the same as we had seen before, caught a few hares, stopt at half after four o'clock in the evening

ing: our Sheick told us he had intelligence of some Arabs being on the road, he sent two men to a village to gain further information about them, the man who returned on foot went again on a camel to search for his comrade, the wind continued blowing hard all this day from the N. W. course S. E.

NOVEMBER 30th. Marched at half past seven this morning, the wind blowing at N. W. exceedingly cold, we passed over an uneven country with some few hills of white stone: the soil in general a sand, and some few hills of white clay, which must be very slippery in wet weather, and consequently dangerous to travel over upon a camel; we came to our ground at half after four near a ruined village: to the N. E. of us we saw a hill that had the appearance of a ruin. One of the scouts returned and brought advice that there were some Arabs near the watering place where we intended to halt the next day, we therefore determined to go another way towards the village of Rahaly; saw three eagles soaring in the air, course S. E. by E.

DECEMBER 1st. In the middle of last night a man came and confirmed the report of our scouts, he said he was sent by one of our people, but we detained him lest he should be employed by an enemy. About two o'clock we turned off due S. to avoid the above-mentioned Arabs. In the first part of the day we marched over a considerable space of ground that is overflowed in the rains; we afterwards met with many different kinds of soil, but principally gravel. About four in the afternoon we saw some hills of white sand to the eastward of us, near which the Sheick says, there is exceeding good water, but we kept to the southward to avoid meeting the Arabs. At noon saw a large herd of goats; this evening two men came into our camp dressed in the skins of antelopes, whose principal business is to kill those animals,

mals, and to carry their skins to the adjacent towns to sell. Halted at six in the evening, about ten miles from Rahaly, which we should have reached this night if we had not been obliged to go so much to the southward; the wind westward, the morning and the evening cool, the middle of the day exceedingly hot, the weather fair.

DECEMBER 2d. Marched at seven this morning, after travelling about three hours and a half over loose sand, came in sight of two large clumps of date trees, we drew up the men in good order to march to the town of Rahaly, which is situated in the middle of a large plain, and surrounded by a vast number of date trees: about three quarters of a mile to the N. W. of the place, are two large ponds of clear water, which are supplied by springs. We first halted near these ponds, but the Sheick advised us to move nearer the town. It is said to contain five or six thousand inhabitants who carry on a considerable trade with the city of Bagdad, particularly in dates. The commander or Arab governor, upon our arrival sent us a present of preserved dates and bread. We saw several large flocks of sheep and goats, and bought a sheep for four dollars, they asked half a dollar apiece for small fowls, which it seems are very scarce: the trees in the neighbourhood of the town seem to cover a space of near six miles, but there is no pasture for the cattle, excepting some fern that grows between the trees; the soil is a light sand, which perhaps is the reason the people in general have bad eyes, for when the wind blows violently from the S. E. it raises the sand, and is said to affect their health as well as their eyes; the *fumyel* or poisonous wind that blows in July and August comes from that quarter. Early in the morning about a dozen of those people who live by catching antelopes came into our camp, in language as well as in features, they appear to be a very distinct people from any
Arabs

Arabs I ever saw, by whom they are treated in the same manner as we treat our gypsies.

DECEMBER 3d. The Sheick being told that a large body of hostile Arabs were on the road, sent some people to treat with them, and desired us to remain at Rahaly, until his messengers returned. This morning about eleven o'clock, some of those Arabs came into our camp, and two of them stayed with us as referees. One of our servants shot two birds somewhat like a partridge, but rather larger, the breast of the male bird is covered with black spots, and the neck entirely black; the plumage of the hen bird is exactly like that of a hen partridge; the inhabitants of the town we found to be great thieves, they attempted to take every thing they could carry away unobserved; the Sheick dispatched a man to Meshed Aly, to see if there were any other hostile Arabs in the neighbourhood of that city, and also to learn if the Persians had abandoned Bassora; by their answers we were to regulate our march; the weather fair, the morning cold, the wind all the day at N. W. in the evening the weather was remarkably fine, and the air temperate. We gave the governor's brother a present of four piaftres, and a Benish or long gown: this place is remarkable for fine greyhounds, we saw several in cloathing like our race horses.

DECEMBER 4th. Marched at seven this morning, the first two hours we passed over a light sand, on which grew a number of thorny bushes and some furze: about nine in the morning we saw a clump of trees to the left, where our people told us there was a small town called Ajeb, and to the right of us was a cupola built of stone, said to be the tomb of Sheick Huzzar; soon afterwards we passed over a place that had the appearance of a lake dried up; on the ground of which we found a great quantity

tity of white salt of a bitumenous taste, it seemed to extend a great way to the N. E. and S. W. and we were about an hour and half in passing over it to the S. E. we then came on a sand and clay mixed, intermixed with gravel: about three o'clock we saw another clump of trees to the left of us: about five in the evening halted in a large plain of sand and gravel, and about four miles to the N. W. of a large ruined building, but it being late when we arrived at our ground, we postponed visiting it until the next morning. The Sheick said it was formerly built by the Greeks, and is called by the Arabs, Khuttar. Weather fair and wind N. W.

DECEMBER 5th. Marched twenty minutes before seven this morning. Accompanied by the Sheick and one of the refeecks, we went to examine the ruin mentioned in last night's journal called Khuttar, it is situated on the bank of a bed of a river, which has been, and perhaps still is very deep when the freshes come down. The building is a large square, surrounded by a wall upwards of thirty-five feet high, and each face of it, somewhat more than two hundred yards in length, built of rough stone and mortar; within the large square there is a smaller one of about one hundred yards each face and parallel with the outer wall: the interior part of the lesser square was divided into a number of chambers and passages, which being in a very ruinous state, we could not form any conjecture what they had been; we could see no place where there had been wells or reservoirs for water, but the Sheick told us by digging near the surface water is always to be found. We saw nothing like Grecian architecture, but our people say it was certainly built by the Greeks: when we were leaving this place we were alarmed by the appearance of some strange Arabs from the N. E. they appeared as soon as we got clear of the building, but some of our people who had observed their motions
coming.

coming from the caravan to join us, the strange Arabs perceiving them coming to our assistance disappeared; at eleven o'clock we passed by two small pools of water, which were clear but extremely brackish: at half after four we halted, the country we passed over was sandy, and some places mixed with clay; about half after three we saw a number of hillocks of sand both to the right and the left of us, we did not lose sight of Khuttar until half an hour before we encamped. Six men on camels and seven on foot came and encamped near us, it appeared they were the same people that we saw in the morning, and were well known to be thieves. In the morning the wind at east and very cold, the weather fair, dispatched another messenger this evening to Meshed Aly for intelligence.

DECEMBER 6th. Marched at a quarter before seven this morning, and left the people behind that encamped near us last night; they mentioned to Sheick Suliman that a French gentleman going to Bassora, had been attacked and plundered; and although much wounded was likely to live, they said the Arabs carried him to Graine, and likewise that the gentleman behaved very gallantly, and killed two or three of their people himself. The soil of the country over which we passed till twelve o'clock was a light sand with some bushes, and a few small hills to the right and left of us: a quarter before twelve we arrived at a place called Hidia where there was a pool of water, surrounded with high grass, we filled a few skins with the water, which was clear, but very brackish; afterwards passed over a country, the soil of which was mud impregnated with salt, there were banks of sand to the right and left of us. At the distance of about twelve miles E. by N. we saw the town of Meshed, or rather Meshgid Aly, that is the mosque or burying place of Aly, who it is well known was the son-in-law of Mahomed, and the favorite pro-

phet of the Persians. At a quarter before five we encamped near a place called Birket Rahama, wind E. S. E. weather fair. One of our servants observing a young camel without an owner, we sent out a man who brought it into our camp.

DECEMBER 7th. Marched rather before seven, the soil over which we passed was sand with thick bushes, saw at the distance of about ten miles to the N. E. the town of Mesgid Aly; we could plainly perceive several minarets, and a large gilt cupola; our Arabs say the latter belongs to the Mesgid or great mosque of that city; it appeared to us with great advantage, for the sun shone on it, and made it appear extremely brilliant: as well as we could judge of the size of the cupola at so great a distance, it cannot be less than the dome of St. Paul's. About twelve o'clock we came to a hill, on which were erected two small forts, the place is called Alathe. At the distance of three quarters of a mile from the Westward fort is a spring of water, which is conveyed to the fort by a deep ditch, and there raised by means of a wheel to water a small garden lately made about the fort, and planted with a great number of radishes and onions: the largest fort is a square about ninety yards each face, at each angle is a round tower built of mud, the inside is a stone building of two stories high, built in the Mahomedan stile: this place was founded by our Sheick, who proposes living here when age or infirmities compel him to retire. He seems to expect to lay the foundation of a very large town here, which as there is plenty of water and a good soil of a light mould, for the purposes of agriculture and gardening, is a very reasonable expectation. A caravan that lately passed, which came from Graine, and was going to Bagdad told the people in the fort, that the Montifeek Arabs have had a great battle with the Persians near Bassora, in which they cut off the whole Persian army, and thereby repossessed themselves

selves of Bassora, the wind N. E. the weather fair, our course about S. E. by S. bought a sheep, and paid three dollars and a half for it.

DECEMBER 8th. Marched at a quarter before seven this morning over a barren stony country, killed a few hares, saw at the distance of about ten miles N. E. of us the town of Gurgam an ancient city rebuilding. About two in the afternoon passed over a hill of red gravel, and at half after four halted in a valley where there was but very little pasture for the camels. About eight in the evening our centinels being posted as usual, one of those to the westward discovered five horsemen who fled the instant he fired at them. We doubled our guards and kept under arms for a few hours in expectation of their attacking us with a reinforcement. The messenger from Meshed Aly not returned, nor the people that were missing from the first place, the wind at E. morning cold, middle of the day exceedingly hot, the wind in the afternoon at N. E.

DECEMBER 9th. Marched at seven this morning, dark and cloudy to the N. W. and the wind from that quarter: the first three hours, a very barren soil, hard sand and large dark brown soft stones, afterwards came to a hard sand and a great many shrubs; half after four halted, killed some hares, the weather cloudy and hazy, to the N. W. we saw a fire which they told us was on the banks of the Euphrates.—Major Thompson about noon missed his watch, but having looked at it about ten o'clock he sent one of the Arabs back to search for it, telling him within what distance it must have fallen, the fellow very honestly brought it, nor was it broken.

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 10th. Marched at seven this morning, passed over a very barren country, saw to the left of us three large volumes of smoke from the banks of the Euphrates, which the Sheick said was fifteen miles distance: at a quarter past twelve halted for half an hour near some wells of tolerable good water, untill two o'clock the soil continued barren, then we got amongst some hills of light sand and broken stones. At four o'clock a large body of Arabs appeared to the right, who seemed inclined to attack us, our people immediately halted and drew up towards the enemy. Some few shot were fired, but a man advanced waving a cloth in his hand, and began a treaty with our Sheick who went to meet him, which put an end to hostilities: our people were of different opinions concerning them, some insisted on their being thieves who intended to attack us in the night; the Sheick himself though he called them friends advised us not to pitch our tents, and also to be on our guard all night. We were encamped half a mile distant from the new comers, our own camels and baggage were drawn up in as small a circle as possible; our suspected enemies were divided into two camps, one to the westward and the other to the southward, wind westerly and weather fair.

DECEMBER 11th. The supposed thieves remained quiet all night in their camps with fires lighted, at half after six we began loading our camels, but did not move till half after seven, we judged it prudent to divide our men into two parties, one of them to march in front of the camels, and the other to bring up the rear. The first two hours the soil was sand with furze, and then a barren stony country; afterwards a sand with furze and in some places large spots that looked like a pond dried up in summer. Rather before one in the afternoon we came to some wells and also a large pond of brackish water, then proceeded over the same sort of country and soil as before till near five, and then
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encamped for the night: cloudy to the N. E. and S. W. a little rain between two and three in the morning, six of the party we saw last night joined us on the march, and were received with great cordiality by our people.

DECEMBER 12th. Marched rather before seven this morning and passed over a light sand mixt with salt, a great quantity of furze and some bushes; the latter part of the day the sand lay in great heaps or ledges: halted at four o'clock in a bottom; from an ascent near the camp we saw a ruin called Couria, about five miles to the southward, with a glass we could perceive it was a square building with round towers: the morning and evening was cool, but the middle of the day very hot, the wind variable, the water we got yesterday brackish and exceedingly bad, at ten o'clock at night we dispatched a letter to Mr. Latouche at Bassora, to inform him of our being on the way, and desiring him to detain any vessel that might be ready to go to Bombay, one of the Arabs that joined us yesterday was selected by the Sheick to carry the letter.

DECEMBER 13th. Marched at seven this morning over an exceeding uneven country, light and deep sand. About four miles from our last nights encampment, we saw the track of a great number of camels and asses, which our people suspected to have been the encampment of a body of thieves. We turned off immediately due E. and passed over an exceeding deep sand, and a country covered with sand and bushes, in some places the ground was covered with dried mud and sand, which by the heat of the sun is hardened so as to appear like broken tiles, there was no appearance of a road; about two o'clock we observed two people at some distance from us, and sent three of our men after them, who took one of their camels and brought it to us, but the

the people escaped. At four o'clock halted at a place where there was a number of springs, but not much water in the wells; this evening for the first time we caught a desert rat, of which we have seen a great number, it is an animal that resembles very much a small rabbit both in shape and colour, the body is about the size of a small mole, the tail three times the length of the body, the point of which is covered with a small bush of hair, the eyes are large, full and black, the hind legs remarkably long: weather fair, wind S. E. and very hot, paid the Sheick one hundred and ten dollars, the last payment of the five hundred kept for disbursement on the road.

DECEMBER 14th. Rained at two o'clock in the morning: marched at seven this morning over a plain country, a cold breeze from the S. E. and cloudy, halted at four o'clock. Course S. E.

DECEMBER 15th. Marched at seven this morning over a country of light sand and mostly barren, at nine in the morning saw a man on a camel, who told us he was a messenger going to the Sheick of the Montiffeeks from Sheick Sidon, he also informed us that Bassora was still in the hand of the Persians. In the evening we perceived some men on camels to the northward, but they did not come near us, we supposed them to be of the same tribe as the man that passed in the morning. Weather cloudy and some few drops of rain, wind W. N. W. and very cold, course S. E. by E.

DECEMBER 16th. Lightening to the N. E. marched at half after seven this morning, in a very dirty thick fog that came on about one o'clock in the morning from the N. E. separated from the caravan belonging to Khwaja Rubens, which went to Graine, and

and we proceeded towards Bassora with only sixteen men and nineteen camels. Our Sheick gave all the water to the other party, thinking we should arrive in the evening at the village of Coebda; but he was mistaken in the distance, for although we kept moving on till ten, we were obliged to pass the night very uncomfortably for want of something to drink: the very great concern expressed by the good old Sheick prevented our reproaching him for his imprudence; he offered to ride all night to search for water, but of course we did not allow him to fatigue himself.

DECEMBER 17th. A violent fog came on again last night, and continued so heavy as to soak through the tent. Early in the night before the fog came on, we saw three or four fires, apparently at the distance of three or four miles to the E.N.E. the Sheick informed us they were on the banks of the Euphrates. Marched at day-break, and at half an hour after nine came to the village of Coebda, which had been ruined by the Persians; here we got some good water, at least it appeared so to us who had not tasted any for more than twenty-four hours. We also met at Coebda the person we had sent with the letter to Bassora, who brought an answer from Mr. Latouche. About one o'clock we arrived at Zebeer, another place which had also been destroyed by the Persians. In the evening M. Latouche, by a second messenger informed us, that in the morning he should send us mules and an escort, for as hostilities still continued between the Arabs and the Persians, our escort could not accompany us any further: the weather cleared up a little about noon, but was not quite clear until the evening. We pitched our tents amongst the ruins of Zebeer, and stationed an advanced picquet in front towards Bassora to guard against being surprised by the Persians; nor can this precaution be deemed unnecessary, considering the

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violent animosity that subsisted between the two nations, of which the following relation will sufficiently explain the cause.

WHEN the Persians took Bassora, they appointed Aly Mahomed governor of it, leaving with him a garrison of seven thousand five hundred men. Although he was such a monster, as is only to be found amidst the ruins of a country; he had art enough to conceal his disposition, until by an affected moderation, he had thrown the inhabitants of the towns and villages, dependant upon his government, off their guard. In about two months however, he broke out, beginning his excesses in the city of Bassora itself. The first victim of his lust was the daughter of an Arabian physician, the fame of whose beauty having reached him, he caused her to be brought to his house, where he kept her for three days, and then turned her out of doors, exposed to the insults of the mob. The father had followed his daughter to the house of the ravisher when she was torn from him, and had never quitted his door, so that he was the first person to receive her when she was again dismissed. He conducted her home, intending on the way, in compliance with the customs of his country to put her to death; but before he could execute his intentions, his affection for his only child prevailed over his regard to custom, and he determined, not only to save her life, but also as much as possible by marriage, to wipe out the stain her reputation had received. He was rich and much respected in the city, which added to the beauty of the girl, enabled him to get a husband for her, not entirely equal to her proper rank and former pretensions; but at the same time greatly above the vulgar. The celebration of such a wedding could not fail to make a great noise, and of course was soon known to the tyrant: whilst he continued sober the news of it seemed neither to afford him pleasure or pain; but in the first fit of intoxication, he
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sent for the father, the husband and the wife, and asked them how they durst presume to dispose of a person devoted to his pleasure? without waiting to receive their answer, he made one of his guards cut off the heads of the father, and the husband, and then compelled the woman to bring water to wash their blood off the hands of the executioner; nor did he stop here, but the sequel of his conduct was not only too shocking, but also too indecent to be related.

NOTWITHSTANDING such unheard of barbarity, the major part of the inhabitants of Zebeer and Coebda were so infatuated as to continue to live within twelve miles of him, imprudently relying on the faith of one who had thus publicly violated all laws, both divine and human. A few, and but very few of the most prudent of them had left either of these places, when one night in a fit of drunkenness, Aly Mahomed marched from Bassora with a body of troops and burnt Zebeer; at the same time putting to death all those who attempted to escape from the flames: from thence he marched to Coebda, where he acted in the same manner, and then returned to Bassora, exulting as much in having treacherously massacred, in cold blood, a number of defenceless people, as if he had obtained a glorious victory over a powerful army.

SUBMISSIVE as the subjects of despotic governments generally are, even under the heaviest oppressions, the inhabitants of Bassora would certainly have revolted against the governor, had not the city been almost depopulated, both by plague and famine before it fell into the hands of the Persians. The few wretched inhabitants who survived these dreadful calamities, could neither resist their tyrant, nor escape from him; their number was too small to hope for success against his force, and to remove from the city was impossible: they were therefore almost reduced to despair when

the gallant tribe of Arabs called Montiffeeks determined to rescue them.

SHEICK TAMUR, the chief of this tribe having collected an army of about fifteen thousand men, advanced with a select party of about two thousand horse within sight of the walls of Bassora; the remainder he left about fifteen miles in the rear, concealed in a wadi, or water course, near the river Euphrates which place the Arabs destined for the scene of action; for besides the Euphrates to the East, and the water course to the North, there was a deep morass to the South. Aly Mahomed who did not want for personal courage, no sooner perceived his enemies near Bassora, than he marched out with five thousand chosen troops to attack them; the Arabs retreated towards their ambuscade, and were followed by the Persians. When the Sheick perceived the Persians had got between the water course and the morass, he sallied out of the place of his concealment, and with a part of the troops having closed up the only opening to the Westward, he charged them sword in hand, in which being also well seconded by the other detachment, which had decoyed them towards the ambuscade, they together put every man of the Persians to death, not leaving one alive to carry back the news of their defeat. By an over-sight, very difficult to be accounted for, Sheick Tamur neglected to pursue his victory, and march directly to Bassora, of which doubtless he would have easily made himself master, for Aly Mahomed had left only a small garrison in it, who would neither have had strength or spirit enough to have made any resistance. This account we received from one of the former inhabitants of Zebeer, whom we found employed in searching among the ruins for what might have escaped the hands of the Persians, when they plundered and destroyed the place.

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IN the evening we settled accounts with the Sheick, and so far from finding him mercenary and selfish as these people are generally represented; he behaved to us with a politeness and liberality that would have done honour to the most polished European.

It will be remembered that by our written agreement at Aleppo, I was to give him five hundred dollars on the road, and eight hundred more on our arrival at Graine: the former sum therefore I kept ready to be paid to his order; but the latter I counted and sealed up in a bag to prevent any of them being lost or mislaid. When this bag was brought, as I was going to open it, the Sheick stopped me, asking if it had been counted and sealed up in my presence; and when I answered in the affirmative with a careless unaffected air, bespeaking no merit from the action, he threw it over his shoulder, and ordered his servant to put it into his trunk. A man shewing such confidence in another, could not be guilty of any baseness himself; in which also he had the more merit from our situation, for had I deceived him, he durst not have followed me to Bassora to have demanded redress.

DECEMBER 18th. At eleven o'clock the mules arrived from Bassora, escorted by ten sepoy's belonging to the factory; after taking leave of the Arabs, with mutual professions of friendship, and a request from our honest Sheick, that we would send for him to accompany us if ever we passed that way again, we left Zebeer.

As the sepoy's were on foot, and moved slowly, we left them with the baggage and rode on towards Bassora. About half way we were met by Mr. Abraham and Mr. Gally, two of the Company's servants, who very politely came to meet and conduct us

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to the English factory, at which we arrived rather before three in the afternoon: the appearance of Bassora was exceedingly gloomy, having as I have before observed been almost depopulated by a plague, a siege, and a famine.

IN the year 1772, there were supposed to be upwards of four hundred thousand inhabitants in the place, and on the day of our arrival, there were certainly not more than six thousand, including the Persians; the principal streets were like a burying ground, with scarcely a space of three feet between each grave.

DECEMBER 19th. Mr. Latouche endeavoured to get a country boat to convey us to Muscat, but he could not procure one without sending to Bunder Reeg or Bunder Aboufaher, called by us Bunder Bushire.

DECEMBER 20th. The difficulty of procuring a boat was increased by an order sent from Shiras, to detain all boats for the use of the troops in their march to reinforce the garrison. This day we rode about the city, which in every part of it wore the same gloomy appearance. The few Arabian inhabitants that remain shewed great respect to Mr. Latouche as he passed along the streets, on account of his generosity and humanity towards them and their countrymen; many of whom after the reduction of the place he redeemed from slavery, and sent to their relations in the country.

DECEMBER 21st. News came that the Sheick of Julfa had taken a vessel belonging to Bombay, and sold the crew and passengers for slaves: this intelligence induced the gentlemen here to advise us to stay for a ship, as in country boats they thought we risked falling also into the Sheicks hands who might treat

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us in the same manner ; but we were not at liberty to stay, having promised before we left England not to wait for a ship, if a boat could be procured.

DECEMBER 22d. The same difficulties still continued about procuring a boat, but before the end of the month, we were promised what is called a *doa*, which is a boat of twenty or thirty tons burthen, sewed together with coir rope. The boats in which the inhabitants cross the Euphrates, to and from the city are nothing more than large round wicker baskets lined with leather, in which they carry not only men, but also horses, and sometimes camels.

DECEMBER 23d. Enquiring into the supposed cause of the plague, I found it was in general imputed to an extraordinary inundation of the river, which left a great quantity of fish on the desert, and those fish becoming putrid infected the air : in riding about the environs of the city we saw an immense quantity of fish-bones still lying on the ground.

THE plague generally rages with most violence in Turkey and Egypt, in March and April, at which time the weather is extremely hot. As heat seems to increase the virulence of this disorder, as the weather is hotter in Hindostan than it is in Turkey, as the inhabitants also profess the same religion, observe the same customs, eat the same food, and live in cities built in the same manner, and of the same materials, it is surprizing they have hitherto never been afflicted with this dreadful disorder ; nor indeed can I find that it has ever been known within the Tropics, even in Arabia Felix. So far from using uncommon precautions to prevent the introduction of it into India ; when the plague had depopulated Bassora, the ships coming from thence scarcely performed any quarantine at
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any of the ports, either on the coast of Malabar, or Choro-mandel.

DECEMBER 24th. At five o'clock in the afternoon, Suduc Khan entered the city, at the head of about four thousand horse. His men were stout and well-made, but they were miserably dressed and accoutred. The Prince himself is a very handsome man; as indeed are most of the Persians of distinction, being the offspring of the handsomest women of Georgia and Circassia, as well as of their own country.

DECEMBER 25th. Early this morning the master of a doa came to treat with us for his boat, at first he was very exorbitant in his demand; but at length became more reasonable, and promised to make it ready without delay. It being Christmas-day Mr. Latouche invited most of the Christian gentlemen to an entertainment at the factory: amongst whom we found some of the Catholic missionaries very conversable, agreeable men. Although no epicure, I cannot help remarking that the flesh of the wild hog which was one of the dishes we had for dinner, was by far the finest meat I ever tasted, which probably is owing to its feeding entirely upon dates.

DECEMBER 26, 27, and 28th. Making preparations for our voyage, the Nakhuda or Captain promised to sail within two days at latest.

DECEMBER 29th. The Nakhuda called this morning, and said he should weigh anchor the next day with the ebb, which makes about two o'clock in the afternoon.

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 30th. About two o'clock we left the factory accompanied by the gentlemen belonging to it, who during our stay at Bassora constantly treated us with the greatest politeness and hospitality: they remained a little time on board the *do*a and then took leave; as they went out of the boat we weighed anchor with a light breeze at N. W. and the tide in our favour: in the morning we came to an anchor again at Aboo ul Khuseeb, where we remained to get wood, rice and dates, which are remarkably cheap and good at this place, Major Thompson stayed behind at Bassora.

DECEMBER 31st. Remained at anchor until one o'clock, then weighed, the wind at N. W. at twelve o'clock the wind dying away and the tide against us, we came to again: The river is about a mile and a quarter wide all the way from Bassora, and planted on both sides with date trees, amongst which a few towns and villages are interspersed which have a very pleasing effect. We saw great numbers of wild ducks, and other water-fowl on the river, but could not get within gun-shot of them. At four in the evening we weighed anchor, and passed the mouth of a river to the Eastward, which they said was the boundary of the Bassora country, and the beginning of the Shaub.

JANUARY 1st, 1779. Weighed at six this morning with a light breeze at N. N. W. at day break we lost sight of the land, steered till twelve o'clock, E. S. E. then afterwards E. by N. by an observation found ourselves in the latitude of 29. 41. North, the weather rather cloudy, we passed several boats going towards the mouth of the river.

JANUARY 2d. The wind at N. W. and the weather fair; about ten o'clock we saw the land bearing South, and about one o'clock passed Cape Bang. On the mountains of Bang, there appeared

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a large fort, which our people said was built by the Greeks, and before it was in ruins was deemed impregnable.

JANUARY 3d. In the night the wind blew exceedingly hard with a high sea, the sail having been torn by the violence of the wind we lay to, whilst they cut it up to half its former size. At day break we made sail again, but the sail being torn a second time, and also the rudder damaged : we came to an anchor off Bunder Reeg, about three miles from the shore. We wanted to get into that place, but we had overshot the port, and were therefore obliged to stand on towards Bunder Aboushaher, called by the Europeans Bunder Bushir. As the wind blew fresh, and the sea ran high, for want of a sail and a rudder the boat was several times in danger of filling. In the afternoon the wind moderated, and at four in the evening finding ourselves off Aboushaher, we stood into the road, and went on shore to our factory, where Mr. Beaumont the resident received us with the greatest politeness.

JANUARY 4th. The doa came into the harbour ; on examining her we found that she not only wanted all kinds of stores, but also that her rudder was entirely destroyed, the wind blew strong from the Southward.

JANUARY 5th. Finding the Captain dilatory in purchasing stores and necessaries for the voyage, we threatened to buy them for him, and to deduct the price of them out of the balance of freight, which he was to receive at Muscat ; to avoid which he himself brought an anchor stock, some spare rope, and two small sails, the wind at S. E. the weather cloudy with rain.

JANUARY 6th. The Nakhuda continued repairing his doa, and promised to be ready in the evening ; wind and weather as yesterday.

yesterday. I made some enquiries of a man who had been at Persepolis, concerning the present state of the ruins of that city ; he called it Tuckta Jumshid, and said that there are only a few pillars and arches left, which are almost covered with bushes. The Grecian name of Persepolis was totally unknown to him, he reckoned it about one hundred and twenty miles from Abousha-her. Finding this man equally intelligent and communicative, I enquired of him also the present state of the modern cities, and indeed of the empire in general : he informed me that Ispahan, or as he called it Isfahan, was now almost entirely deserted ; the seat of Government being transferred to Shiras, where Kerreem Khan the present Sovereign, or as he calls himself, the protector resides. Kerreem Khan was one of the ablest Generals of the famous Nadir Shah, better known in Europe, by the name of Kouli Khan, when his master was assassinated, Kerreem Khan marched towards Persia, and having a large body of troops devoted to him, he assumed the reins of Government, which he has held ever since. A Prince coming to a throne by hereditary succession, or by election, may venture to reside in an open city like Ispahan ; but an usurper must endeavour to secure himself with fortifications ; for this reason Kerreem fixed upon Shiras, which is surrounded with a wall and a ditch, sufficiently strong to resist the attacks of the Persians ; and in order to render himself still more secure, he has obliged all his principal officers to bring their women into the city, from which none of them can ever go out again without his permission. Could any other advantages compensate for the want of liberty, the Persians would have no reason to complain of the rigour of this order, for at Shiras they certainly enjoy every pleasure that can be derived from a fine climate and a fertile soil : they have fruits and vegetables of all kinds in abundance ; and of the grapes they make a wine, the qualities of which have been celebrated

by their well-known Poet Hafiz, who has also spoke of the ladies with such enthusiasm, as to say the truth would only become an oriental writer, but still there is no doubt of their being extremely beautiful ; nor are the arts entirely unknown there, for at Shiras, they manufacture the finest sword blades in the world, and adorn the handles of them with enamel which would be admired even in London or Paris. Nothing in short is wanting to render Persia a terrestrial paradise, excepting a regular Government. The present Usurper Kerreem Khan is too far advanced in years to make his power felt throughout the Empire, and whatever successor he may have will find, he has much to do to unite a kingdom, which for so many years has been in a state of anarchy and confusion.

THE great Kouli Khan ruined Persia ; the force he collected for the invasion of Hindostan excited in the nation in general a spirit of enterprize and adventure, and the influx of wealth from the plunder of that country, entirely destroyed the spirit of industry. In consequence of which, the cultivation of the lands has been neglected, trade abandoned, and those troops which were levied for conquest, having dissipated what they acquired by plunder have ever since been ravaging their own native country. The fate of Persia may serve as a lesson to all other nations, to prefer the more slow but salutary profits of trade. Superfluous wealth occasions a kind of fever in a kingdom, during the paroxysms of which it seems to have acquired uncommon strength ; but being exhausted by unnatural exertions, it at length sinks down a miserable victim to its disorder.*

* It has been said Lord Clive proposed to pay the national debt by an expedition to China : he might in a convivial moment amongst his friends have said such a scheme was practicable, and so it certainly is ; but he was too sound a politician, to wish to see one hundred and fifty millions of specie introduced at once into England, knowing as he must that one half that sum has irrecoverably ruined one of the greatest Empires in the world.

JANUARY 7th. The Nakhuda promised to have the doa ready to sail in twenty-four hours, if the wind permitted. In the evening of this day there was a violent squall of wind from the S. E. accompanied with thunder, lightening and rain, which was the breaking up of the weather, for in the night the wind came round to the northward with a moderate breeze.

JANUARY 8th. The Nakhuda called in the morning to inform us he should sail in the evening about five o'clock, at which time we embarked and sailed in company with two trankeys bound to Gombroon, the wind N. N. W. and the weather fair.

JANUARY 9th. Fair weather with a fresh breeze at N. W. saw the mountain and Cape Burdistan, and at twelve o'clock bore away N. N. E. towards a shoal called the cock that we passed at one o'clock in the afternoon upon which two English ships have been lost, one of them in the year 1763. On the mountain of Burdistan they used formerly by signals to convey intelligence to the merchants at Shiras, of the appearance of the ships expected from India, that they might instantly come to Aboushaher to purchase their goods, latitude observed 27. 53. North.

JANUARY 10th. About two o'clock in the morning it grew calm, and continued so all day: about six in the evening a light breeze sprung up from S. S. E. About four miles from the shore saw Cape Naband E. by N. latitude 27. 11. North.

JANUARY 11th. Calm till about seven in the morning, then a light breeze sprung up from the N. W. saw a small boat coming from the Southward, and two others from the Eastward, said to belong to a pirate called Abd ul Rheman, they did not come within gun shot of us, but hovered about us till dark and then appeared no more. Within about six miles of the shore on which
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are high rocks called Dar ul Asban that appeared white like chalk, latitude observed 27. 8. North.

JANUARY 12th. A fresh breeze from the N. W. and fair weather, passed by the Island of Sheick Shaub, Shudwan and Handeraby, latitude observed 26. 43. North.

JANUARY 13th. Calm the greatest part of the night and this morning, at eleven o'clock came on a fresh breeze from the N. W. which continued till seven in the evening, passed by the Islands about five, saw the highland about Gombroon bearing E. N. E. latitude observed 26. 23. North.

JANUARY 14th. Light airs and variable, passed the Islands of Kesh and Belior, latitude 26. 24. North.

JANUARY 15th. The wind at N. E. and blew fresh, coming further to the eastward. In the morning we ran in towards the Island of Kismis, near a place called Daag ul Kumuck, came to an anchor after ten o'clock, calm, latitude observed 26. 36. North. Two people who came in a small boat from the shore, confirmed to us the report that Mahomed Rashid Sheick of Julfa, had taken one of the company's vessels, going from Bombay to Bassora, and sold the crew for slaves.

JANUARY 16th. At nine in the morning weighed anchor, and went round the West end of the Island of Kismis, called by the Persians Touly, and came to an anchor again off Ras, (cape) Bassido which by an observation lays in the latitude of 26. 41. North. Between twenty and thirty years ago, the people said there was a settlement of Europeans here; we saw the remains of a church, and the ruins of a large town that had been built with

with bricks dried in the sun. At two in the afternoon weighed with a light breeze at S. W. and the tide in our favor, the channel between Kismis and the main at this place is about four miles wide. At Bassido we got a fresh supply of water, which was taken out of a reservoir that had been built by the Europeans, paved all through with a white stone, at this time there were not ten houses inhabited in this large ruined town, all which were Persians.

JANUARY 17th. Came to an anchor at half past ten at night, and did not weigh again until six the next morning. About seven we arrived amongst a parcel of Islands covered with trees most of which stood two feet or more in the water; the Islands are divided by very narrow channels, so that the trees almost meet and form a kind of harbour. About eleven o'clock it being calm and the tide making against us we again came to an anchor; the people whilst they were cutting wood saw three large wild hogs and some pigs. At half after eleven in the forenoon it began to rain hard, and to blow fresh from the N. W. which continued till two o'clock; then cleared up and being a settled wind we weighed. Until five in the evening we continued sailing through a narrow channel amongst the Islands, and then came in sight of a fort and ruined town called Left; it is situated under a hill on the Island of Kismis, the fort bore about S. W. of us at sun set; near this place we were obliged to wait for our boat that Sheick Aly the Nakhuda had sent on shore for some wood and fish for his own private use. About four in the afternoon made sail again and passed by a galivat belonging to Sheick Mahomed Miny of Ormus. No observation on account of the haziness of the weather.

JANUARY

JANUARY 18th. At night calm, the tide making against us, came to an anchor. In the morning at day break weighed with a light breeze to the S. W. Gombroon bearing about N. N. E. In the afternoon the wind freshened and came further to the westward, blowing very hard from five to seven in the afternoon, and then it began to moderate, no observation. Cape Salamet on the Island of Mahomed Salamet, bore at sun set about S. W.

JANUARY 19th. The wind continued to blow exceedingly hard from the westward, which made the vessel both roll and pitch very much : at half after eight the sail was broke by the violence of the wind, unbent it, and bent a smaller. The middle of the night being exceedingly cloudy, the Arabs for want of a compass did not know which way to steer ; they had been going above two hours due North when we discovered it, and put them right, they had been deceived by a change of wind and bad steering. In the morning came on a fresh breeze to the N. W. which continued till ten in the morning, it then grew calm, and afterwards sprung up from the same quarter : latitude observed 26. 29. North, distant from the shore about five leagues, high mountain near Cape Mozandon. The town of Lema bore of us at noon S. W. by W. the afternoon little wind and cloudy all round.

JANUARY 20th. About one o'clock this morning came on a fresh breeze at North, which increased with a following sea : about four o'clock in the morning our tiller roper broke, and it was with much difficulty we prevented the vessel from flying to. Three men got overboard to mend the rudder, in the mean time the vessel rolled so much that there was danger of her filling, or at least of her carrying away the mast ; in about an hour the rudder being repaired, we got under sail again, the weather being dark and squally, the Nakhuda and the pilot thought it unsafe
to

to continue any longer at sea, and therefore put in at Khorfakan, which is situated on the coast of Arabia, in a small bay open only to the Eastward ; on the S. E. side of the bay is a harbour for boats, where we lay in smooth water, and entirely sheltered from all winds, it rained exceedingly hard the whole day, and consequently wetted our baggage and beds. At seven in the evening the clouds dispersed, and it began to clear up.

JANUARY 21st. About two o'clock this morning came on a very hard squall of wind and rain, with violent thunder and lightening from the N. W. which continued near an hour ; had we been at sea we must inevitably have foundered in less than five minutes, for although we lay in a place surrounded with hills, the violence of the wind shook the vessel as if she had struck by a broadside from a large ship. The wind being at S. E. we could not move, therefore at day-break we went on shore to the top of the hills to take a view of the country, and dry our cloaths, &c. on a small hill to the Westward of this little harbour, is a ruined castle, formerly built by Nadir Shah, to cover a magazine for his stores, when his troops besieged Muskat.

THE town which is situated at the bottom of the Bay was once considerable, but at present consists only of two or three houses built of stone, the rest are fishermen's huts.

JANUARY 22d. At nine at night the wind being set in at N. W. and the weather fair, we weighed anchor from Khorfakan. When out at sea we saw some lightening from the S. E. At eleven at night the wind began to freshen from the N. W. and at one blew in hard squalls, at seven in the morning our tiller rope broke, which had not been mended above a quarter of an hour when a hard squall came, and the rudder itself was broken, as it

was impossible to mend it without unhooking it, some of the people went overboard for that purpose, and in half an hour brought the remainder of the rudder on board, but it was full four hours before it was repaired; in the mean time, as we could not lay the vessel to, we lowered down the sail, and the vessel lay with her broadside to the wind, we expected she would fill every moment, for the wind blew very hard in squalls, with a short and heavy sea, when the rudder was mended, six of our people got into the sea to fix it. About twelve o'clock, with much difficulty we got her head round and scudded her before the wind, just after we had repaired the rudder, we saw Cape Shenes, bearing west, latitude observed 24. 34. N. We had no observation at Khorfakan, but from its bearing and distance this day at noon, I should suppose it lay in latitude 25. 13. North.

JANUARY 23d. At ten last night, in shifting the sail to haul in for the land, our tiller-rope broke again, and the vessel flew up in the wind. We tried when the rope was mended to bring her head round again to our proper course, but in vain, and therefore steered as much as we could to the westward. Our people were so much harrassed by the fatigues of the preceeding day and night, that they could not be prevailed upon to exert themselves; but on the contrary were sulky and quarrelsome, upbraiding us with being the authors of their distresses, in obliging them to leave Khorfakan before the weather was settled. Our vessel being very lively shipped no sea, although the wind and sea encreased considerably. At day-break in the morning, passed between the islands of Sawady, and the town of Sohar on the Main: the wind being much more moderate, at five in the morning we came to an anchor at Muscat. The entrance of the outer port where we anchored is defended by several batteries even with the water's edge; but the Arabs with
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some reason depend most upon two forts, erected upon hills, commanding the mouth of the inner harbour, which are called Marany and Jillaly; not being acquainted with the rules of this place, we narrowly escaped getting into a scrape, for as no boats are allowed to go on shore after sun-set from the outer port, the guards stationed in the two above-mentioned forts fired at us, but fortunately they were bad marksmen, only one of their shot struck the boat. The Success, Grab, from Bombay, which was bound to Bassora with dispatches, was lying in the inner harbour; we went to the house of Narraindofs, the English broker, which although not a very elegant habitation appeared to us, who had been exposed to violent wind and incessant rain for eight and forty hours, a perfect palace.

JANUARY 24th. In the morning Captain Twyfs came and told us he should sail for Bassora the next day. He had six English gentlemen passengers with him that were going over the desert, and also Monsieur Borel de Bourg, the French officer, who had been plundered and wounded by the Arabs on the desert. Monsieur Borel wishing to hear the latest news from Europe, and perhaps also being desirous of conversing with a person who had lately travelled the same route as himself, came and spent the evening with me at the broker's house. I told him that I was no stranger to what had befallen him on the desert, and easily prevailed on him to give me an account of his adventures.

THE particulars of the business upon which he was sent, he of course concealed, but in general terms he informed me that soon after the engagement between the two fleets near Brest, in July 1778, Monsieur de Sartine, his friend and patron ordered him to carry dispatches over land to India. I think he said he left Mar-

feilles on the third of August; but that owing to the stupidity of the Captain of his vessel, and to contrary winds he did not arrive at Latichea before the end of the month; from thence he immediately proceeded to Aleppo. The French Consul could not collect more than twenty-five guards to attend him across the desert; with which on the fourteenth of September, he began his journey. He met with no serious molestation, until he was within fifteen days of Bassora, when early one morning he perceived himself followed by a party of about thirty Arabs mounted on camels, who soon overtook him. As they approached, he by his interpreter desired they would please to advance or halt, or move to the right or left of him, for he chose to travel by himself; they answered that they should not interfere with him, and went forwards at a brisk rate. Mr. Borel's people then suspected them of some hostile design, and told him to be upon his guard. In the evening, between four and five o'clock, he observed them halted and drawn up as if to oppose him, and in a few minutes three other parties, consisting also of about thirty each appeared in sight, in opposite directions, seemingly inclined to surround him: from these appearances very naturally concluding their intentions to be hostile, and consequently his situation desperate, he thought only of selling his life as dearly as possible. He was armed with a double barrelled fuzee, a pair of pistols and a sabre; as he kept marching on, he first fell in with the party in front, who fired at him, which he returned as soon as he came within musket shot of them and killed the Sheick; when he had discharged his fire arms, before he could load them again, several of the Arabs broke in from different sides, and cut him down. Stunned with the violence of the blow, he knew nothing that passed afterwards until about an hour before day-break the next morning, when he found himself entirely naked on the ground, a quantity of blood near him, and part of the flesh of
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the side of his head hanging upon his cheek. In a few minutes he recollected what had passed, but as he could feel no fracture or contusion in the skull, he began to hope his wounds were not mortal: this however was only a transient gleam of hope, for it immediately occurred to him, that without clothes or even food, he was likely to suffer a much more painful death. The first objects that struck him when he began to look about him were those who had been killed on both sides in the action; but at the distance of a few hundred yards, he soon afterwards perceived a great number of Arabs seated round a large fire: these he naturally supposed were his enemies, he nevertheless determined to go to them, in hopes, either to prevail on them to save his life or else to provoke them to put an immediate end to his miseries. Whilst he was thinking in what manner without the assistance of language he should be able to excite their compassion, and to soften their resentment against him for the death of their companions, which these people he had heard seldom forgive: it occurred to him, that they paid great respect to age; and also that they seldom destroy those who supplicate mercy; from whence he concluded that if he could throw himself under the protection of the oldest person amongst them, he might probably be saved. In order to approach them unperceived, he crept towards them upon his hands and knees, and when arrived within a few paces of their circle, having singled out one who had the most venerable appearance, he rushed forwards and springing over the head of one of the circle, he threw himself into the arms of him whom he selected for a protector. The whole party were at first extremely astonished, not having the least notion of his being alive; but when their surprize subsided, a debate arose whether or not they should allow him to live. One of them who had probably lost a friend or relation, drew his sword in a great rage, and was going to put him to death, but his protector stood up with great
zeal

zeal in his defence, and would not suffer him to be injured; in consequence of which, his adversary immediately mounted his camel, and with a few followers went away. When this contest was over the Sheick, for so he happened to be, perceiving Monsieur Borel entirely without clothes, presented him with his abba or outer cloak, invited him to approach the fire, and gave him coffee and a pipe, which an Arab when he is not on the march has always prepared. The people finding Monsieur Borel did not understand Arabic enquired for his interpreter, who was found asleep and slightly wounded.

THE first demand the Arabs made was for his money and jewels, which they observed Europeans always have in great abundance, but which are concealed in private drawers, that none excepting themselves can discover. He assured them these opinions were erroneous with respect to him, for that he was not a rich merchant, but only a young soldier of fortune, employed to carry orders from his government in Europe, to their settlements in India: but that if they would convey him to Graine a place near Bassora on the Sea coast; on their arrival there, and on the receipt of his papers he would engage to pay them two hundred chequins, about one hundred pounds sterling. After a few minutes consultation with each other they acceded to his proposals, returned him his oldest Arabian dress, and during the rest of his journey treated him with tolerable kindness and attention.

AFTER Mr. Borel's arrival at Graine he easily prevailed on an Armenian to advance him the money to fulfill his engagements with the Arabs; and also to send the French resident at Bassora an account of what had befallen him on the desert, desiring to be supplied with money and other necessaries to enable him to proceed to Pondicherry. His letter very fortunately for us fell
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into the hands of the English resident at Bassora, who having heard of our rupture with France instantly determined to arrest him, being convinced he must be charged with public dispatches of consequence. Every generous mind will lament the necessity there was of adding to the distresses of this spirited and unfortunate youth; but the lives of thousands, and perhaps the safety of our settlements in India, depended upon his being intercepted, but to prevent his being treated with any rigour, or suffering any indignity, Mr. Abraham the second in council of the factory was employed to seize him.

THE town of Graine is about seventy miles from Bassora, and is governed by an Arab Sheick who is very much attached to us, but Mr. Abraham knew it would be very difficult to prevail on him to violate the rights of hospitality to a stranger, and without the Sheick's connivance, the execution of the project would have been absolutely impracticable: the better to conceal his design Mr. Abraham at night went down to Graine in a country boat, accompanied by the Captain of one of our ships then lying at Bassora, and immediately proceeded to the Sheick's house, to whom he immediately communicated his business. The Arab at first violently opposed the measure; but being mollified by presents, and also assured that Mr. Borel should not receive any personal injury, he at last tacitly consented. When Mr. Abraham knocked at the door Mr. Borel was retired to rest, but he instantly got up to admit him, thinking he was a person sent from the French Resident with an answer to his letter; as soon as he discovered his mistake he attempted to defend himself, but he was instantly overpowered and conveyed to the Sea side, where he was put on board the ship that had been sent from Bassora, and was just then come to an anchor off the place. He had two packets, one for Pondicherry, and another for Mauritius, which
were

were found, but Monsieur Borel observed to me that they missed the key of the cypher in which the dispatches were written, by neglecting to search the lining of his clothes. It was perhaps a fortunate circumstance for Monsieur Borel that he was taken prisoner by us, for his wound through unskilfull management, and the want of proper remedies was grown extremely bad, nor is it improbable if he had attempted to proceed in a country boat, the only conveyance he could have got at Graine, that his wound would have occasioned his death long before the boat could have arrived at any French settlement in India. I made use of these arguments to console him for his misfortunes, but the zeal for his country, the natural enthusiasm of his disposition, and the hopes which had been given him of promotion, had he executed his commission, made him deaf to every thing I could say to afford him consolation: disappointed but not discouraged by his former sufferings, he was then on his way to Bassora to proceed over the great desert a second time; which I was afterwards informed, he passed with every assistance he could receive from the gentlemen of our Factory.

JANUARY 25th. Remained at Muscat the wind blowing directly into the mouth of the harbour.

JANUARY 26th. Went on board the dingy at day light, and began warping out. At eleven in the forenoon got out of the harbour and failed, the wind began to freshen in the afternoon, and there being appearances of its blowing still harder, at three in the afternoon we put about and returned into the harbour of Muscat, came to an anchor off the fort of Merany. At seven in the evening another dingy that had failed at the same time put back in a very shattered condition. The Grab that failed in the morning went away before the wind to Bassora.

JANUARY

JANUARY 27th. The wind continued to blow exceedingly hard all last night from the S. E. Although we lay with two anchors under the cover of a hill in smooth water, we drove very much in the night. At day break layed a grapling to the westward, and warped towards the harbour. At eight in the morning the wind came round to the westward, and blew very hard, with great clouds of dust that came off the land; the vessels that were going out, and also all the fishing boats immediately put back into the harbour; as our people also seemed apprehensive of a hard gale, by their advice we also returned into the inner harbour, where we found three dingies waiting for a settled wind, to proceed to the Malabar coast with us, remained in the harbour, as the forts would not let us pass out in the evening.

JANUARY 28th. At day break in the morning began to warp out of the harbour, at eleven o'clock got under sail, went on board an English Snow bound to Aboufhaheer, commanded by Captain Johnson who gave us a quadrant, mine having been injured by a fall, he also kindly offered us every other assistance in his power. The wind at N. W. at sun set Cape Curiat bearing S. W. by S. distant about five leagues. In the evening the wind began to slacken very much.

JANUARY 29th. Calm all last night. Came on a light breeze this morning that lasted from seven to ten; calm all the rest of the day and the weather very hazy. Latitude observed, 23. 15. North.

JANUARY 30th. Calm the greatest part of last night. At four in the morning came on a light breeze from the N. W. At daylight saw a large vessel to the S. S. E. standing to the westward. Latitude observed 23. 9. N. Calm since noon, and a swell from the N. W.

JANUARY 31st. Very little wind all night. At three in the morning a light breeze sprung up from the Southward, in the afternoon, it came round to the Westward, and at last settled in the N. W. Latitude observed 22. 24.

FEBRUARY 1st. Light wind all day from the N. W. and very fine weather. Latitude observed 22. 15.—2d. Calm part of last night, afterwards a breeze from the N. W. continued till five in the morning. Calm till twelve o'clock. Latitude observed 21. 52. North. At two in the afternoon a breeze sprung up which continued to freshen.

FEBRUARY 3d. Last night at eleven o'clock the wind came to the N. E. and freshened to a very fine breeze. At two in the morning passed by two small dingies, supposed to be bound to Muscat, but did not hail them. Latitude 21. 19.

FEBRUARY 4th. A fresh breeze from the N. W. and fair weather. At nine saw a vessel to the N. E. quarter, standing to the Southward; we hauled our wind as soon as she appeared in sight, supposing her to be an enemy. She passed within a quarter of a mile to leeward of us, without taking any other notice, but hoisting her colours, which were Moors. Latitude observed 20. 30. North.

FEBRUARY 5th. Light winds at N. N. E. Latitude observed 19. 50. North.

FEBRUARY 6th. A fine fresh breeze at N. E. and very fair weather. At three in the afternoon layed to and sounded; found forty-six fathom; saw several snakes, the signs of being near the Malabar coast. Latitude observed 19. 22.

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 7th. Most part of the day very little wind, and sometimes calm. About two o'clock in the afternoon the sea wind sprung up and freshened to a fine breeze, hove to and founded, found forty-three fathoms. Latitude observed 19. 15. Course E. $\frac{1}{2}$ N.

FEBRUARY 8th. A fine fresh breeze at N. W. for the most part of the day. Saw the land at day-light in the morning, and at four in the afternoon came to an anchor in Bombay harbour, found there the Asia man of war, Capt. Vandeput; the Royal Admiral and Morse Indiamen; and several other country ships. The Asia and the two Indiamen arrived from England the day before us. At six in the evening went on shore to the Governor's house and delivered him the pacquets.

MR. HORNBY, the Governor of Bombay, during our stay on that island, very politely entertained us at his house, and ordered a vessel to be got ready to convoy us to Anjengo. We embarked on board the Thunder Bomb Ketch, Captain Baine, on the 14th of February, and arrived at Anjengo in nine days; a voyage at this season of the year on the Malabar coast is always agreeable, but was rendered particularly so to us, from the good humour, and good sense of our Captain.

HAVING hired a palanquin and proper people to carry it, on the 24th in the evening I set out from Anjengo for Pollamcottah, leaving my companion Mr. Dighton to follow me at his leisure, with the baggage and servants: the third day at noon I arrived at Pollamcottah, where I remained one day to give time to my friend Captain Burrington, the commandant of that garrison to send orders to have palanquin bearers ready for me, at all the different stages on the road to Madras. The post, or as they are

called at Madras the tappal peons carried these orders, which I found the whole way had been punctually performed. It has been invariably my rule throughout this journal to acknowledge the attention I met with on the way; but without proceeding in the same manner after my arrival at Pollamcottah, and from thence to Madras; I shall only mention in general, that on this as on every other journey I have made in India, the kindness of my friends in that part of the world, has always infinitely surpassed both my expectations and wishes. Nor do I on that account arrogate to myself any particular degree of merit, for their hospitality knows no bounds or distinction, when a person is properly introduced to them.

THE voyage from Leghorn to Bombay was performed in five months and ten days; but had we embarked at some port in the S. E. part of Italy, or rather Calabria; and had there been a ship ready at Bassora to convey us immediately from thence to Bombay; we should certainly have arrived there in less than four months, as will appear by examining the time unavoidably lost; first by contrary winds in the N. W. part of the Mediterranean, and afterwards in waiting at Bassora for a boat, &c. Had we gone directly from England to Brindisi or Otranto, we might have arrived at either of those places in five and twenty days, and afterwards have gone from thence to Latichea in fifteen days, making altogether forty days. Whereas by embarking at Leghorn we were almost sixty days going the same distance: no time was lost either at Latichea or Aleppo, but at Bassora we were detained twelve days, waiting for a boat, and afterwards were thirty nine days going from thence to Bombay, a voyage that in an European vessel might easily have been performed in three weeks. Twenty days lost in the way to Latichea; twelve days at Bassora, and eighteen from thence to Bombay, make altogether fifty days, which

which being deducted from five months and ten days, leaves a remainder of three months and twenty days, that is reckoning each month at an average of thirty days.

It is hardly necessary to observe that more attention has been paid to the matter, than to the stile of this journal, particularly in that part of it which relates to the desert. But the observations of each day were put down in the evening of the day on which they were made, and with no other view than to serve as memoranda; in which form they perhaps will be most acceptable to the generality of readers, as being the ideas of the country as they occurred on the spot. It may perhaps be thought that too much has been said of wind and weather, which are seldom much noticed in books of travels by land. Travelling in a close carriage, it certainly does not signify what quarter the wind comes from, or whether it blows hot or cold; but this is not the case with a traveller exposed to the open air, with no other covering than the clothes he wears. A person going across the desert will probably be glad to know what weather he is likely to have during his journey, that he may guard against the inclemency of it, by purchasing such clothes as are best suited to the purpose.

THE observations on the soil, and the appearance of the country were originally intended as materials for a work, which perhaps will hereafter be offered to the public; but which a multiplicity of private business prevents my entering upon at present. The great desert of Arabia has often been represented as an immense space of barren sand; which never has, nor ever can be made to produce any herb or vegetable whatsoever; where consequently not only men could never reside, but where no animals of any kind could possibly exist. The journal itself confutes that opinion, in which the attentive reader will perceive, that frequent
mention

mention is made of the ruins of buildings, which in all probability are only small remains of what once existed on those spots. Before the discovery of the passage round the Cape of Good Hope, when the productions of the East were necessarily brought the major part of the way to Europe by land, particularly in the early ages of antiquity; the great desert was doubtless one of the principal channels of Eastern commerce: at that time I suppose those buildings to have been erected, nor can I attribute the existence of Palmyra itself, which is situated in a most barren part of the desert, to any other cause. Water the great principle of both animal and vegetable life is not wanting. By means of those water courses which communicate with the Euphrates, and also from the wells which are interspersed throughout the desert, water enough may be obtained, not only for domestic uses, but also for the purposes of husbandry. The soil in general is by no means so barren as not to be capable of cultivation; there are but few spots that would not yield to the persevering hand of industry. But, my further sentiments on this subject, and also my opinion of the character of the Arabs I must for the reasons already assigned, defer giving to a more convenient opportunity; and in the mean time my indulgent readers may be assured that no endeavours shall be wanting on my part to obtain for their satisfaction and amusement, the fullest and most authentic information.





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